

It's freaky, it's sexy, so get the clogs going

Down on the south coast, the world's biggest folk festival is in progress, complete with a retinue of somewhat elderly groupies and classes in Cajun Jitterbugging

Monday sketch



Matthew Engel

SIR Thomas Beecham is usually given credit for the line that you should try everything once except incest and folk dancing. The taboos are breaking down now and you can get incest on Brookside. You will still struggle to see folk dancing on telly. It is, however, available all this week in Devon.

Indeed, there is excess of it. This is the 42nd Sidmouth International Festival of Folk Art, said to be the world's biggest folk festival. Between now and Friday it is possible to attend workshops in, to take a tiny sample, Tibetan line dancing, Highland dancing, Welsh, French, Egyptian, flamenco, at least four different types of Morris, and American folk clogging.

According to the programme, Britain has experienced "an explosion of interest" in Appalachian precision clogging in the past few years. This is a cultural phenomenon that may have passed you by. But in case you were about to smugger, consider the Cajun jitterbug workshop. At least 250 people were there on Saturday, almost all of whom got on to the floor and were mastering the art of tiptoeing on one foot while simultaneously hugging their hips and crossing their hands. "It's a very sexy dance, lots of eye contact," we were instructed, at which point I felt obliged to honour journalistic ethics by making an excuse and leaving.

This obscure stuff was the original basis of the Sidmouth Festival: the big-name vocal and instrumental acts in the main venues came later. And every year it gets bigger. Sixty thousand people are expected during the week.

Yet, folk, on the face of it, remains relentlessly unfashionable, as it has been since the great revival started out in the early 70s. Groups like Oasis betray their folk influences in their music and their lyrics, yet grown men find it hard to confess they ever like any of this stuff. In some circles, incest is comparatively respectable.

Steve Heap, Sidmouth's director, is convinced there is a mini-boom, brought on by the sudden burst of interest in world music, and the arrival of a new and gifted generation of young folk performers, who are now happily fusing traditional English and Celtic song with all kinds of other forms. "This new blood comes not before time. On the Sidmouth seafront the old people who sit in the deckchairs all summer merge with the folkies for the week. But it is not always possible to tell who belongs to which group unless they actually get out their fiddles or start doing shanties.

The star act on Saturday night was the American singer-songwriter Loudon Wainwright III, who has been taking us through life's little mysteries for what seems like for ever. "We've been through all our traumas together, me and Loudon, I'll have you know," one woman told her daughter after the show.

During the quiet moments Wainwright had to compete with the sounds from the tent next door. "Is that Morris dancing?" he asked. "Man, that is some freaky stuff you do over here. Wool! Those outfits in America you'd get beaten up."

Actually, for once, it wasn't Morris. Sibelius reels were being taught to a crowd far older than Loudon's lot, so elderly it could have come straight out of the White Heather Club. But further up the hill a newer generation was having a wild time to what is technically known as "bouncy psychedelic roots fusion", i.e. basically jumping-up-and-down music with just the odd Swarthickian violin riff cutting through the noise to prove this is actually in some way folk.

Still, it does all mean there really is something for everyone. There was even a hint of the Olympics, an opening ceremony at which dance groups from the most exotic places — Sierra Leone, Poland, Armenia, Portugal, Quebec, and Newcastle upon Tyne — saw their national flags unfurled alongside that of East Devon district council.

There were some unintentional Olympic touches: growing commercialism — the view was partially blocked by a sign saying "Fresh Debutants" whose intentionality is a Portuguese guitarist next to me got rather upset about the way his group were quickly ushered out while the Sierra Leone dancers were allowed to steal the show.

But these were tiny blemishes. The festival president, Canon David Slater, told the crowd: "We live in a world of corruption and violence. But look at the person next to you and you will see someone who is kind and who wants peace." And he was almost certainly right. This is perhaps the biggest gathering in Britain at which one could toss a wallet on the ground and feel wholly confident that it would find its way back.

The low-fat nutty tofu burgers were okay; the music ranged from the pleasant to the sensational; the atmosphere everywhere was absolutely terrific; and Sidmouth must be the least ruined seaside town on the South Coast. Another year I will learn Cajun jitterbugging. I promise.



Poland's Poitek folk song and dance group in performance at the Sidmouth festival at the weekend PHOTOGRAPH: MARC HILL

rector, is convinced there is a mini-boom, brought on by the sudden burst of interest in world music, and the arrival of a new and gifted generation of young folk performers, who are now happily fusing traditional English and Celtic song with all kinds of other forms. "This new blood comes not before time. On the Sidmouth seafront the old people who sit in the deckchairs all summer merge with the folkies for the week. But it is not always possible to tell who belongs to which group unless they actually get out their fiddles or start doing shanties.

The star act on Saturday

Review

Nice opera, shame about the production

Andrew Clements

Metropolitan Broomhill

THIS is the sixth summer season in the nicely proportioned theatre at Broomhill, part of the conference centre on the David Salomon estate near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and each year the mixture of opera, old and new, has been varied. This time the emphasis is on repertory pieces — there are fully staged productions of Handel's *Rodelinda*, Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona*, and a "score head" performance of *And The Winner Is Love* by Kenneth Dempster.

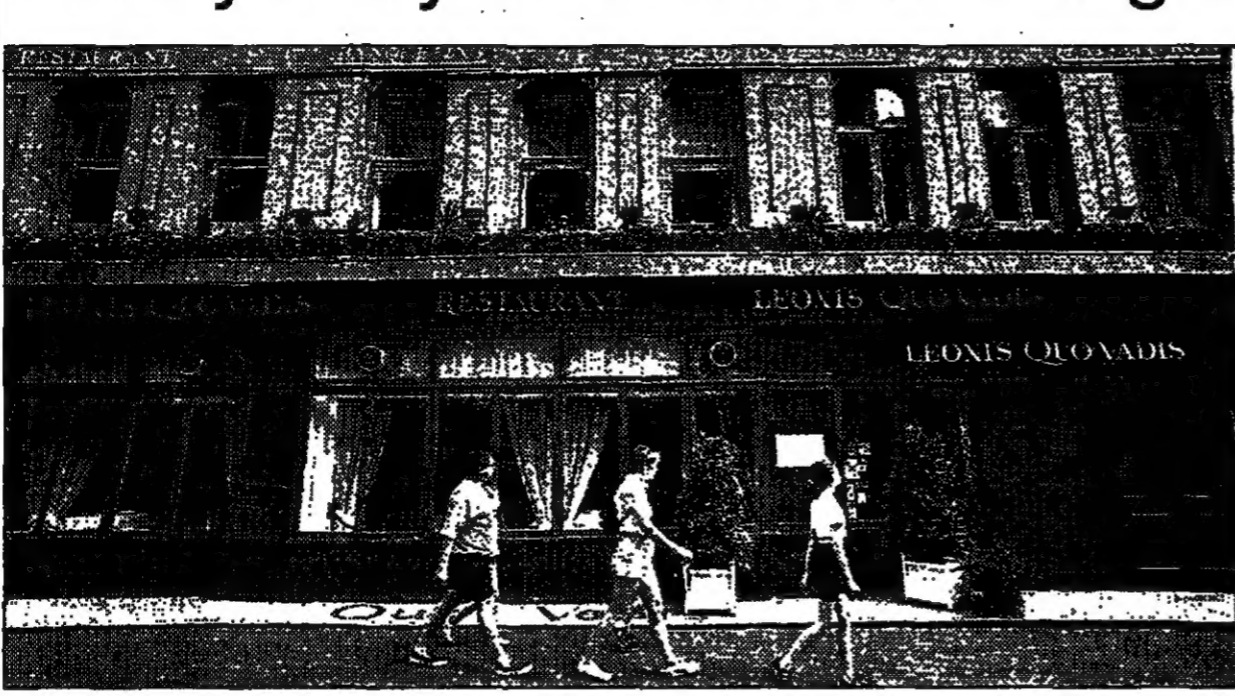
Broomhill makes a point of casting young singers wherever possible, giving them their valuable stage experience, with some older hands around to provide the stiffening. In *Rodelinda*, which opened the Broomhill festival last week, the musical product of that blend is startlingly good. The experience comes from tenor Adrian Thompson, wonderfully stylish and dramatically focused in the role of the tyrannical Grimoaldo, who tries to usurp the King of Lombardy Bertrando and his Queen Rodelinda, and Eiddwen Harry as the king's sister Edluisa, while Nicholas Kraemer's conducting, with the expert Baglan Baroque Flute, is sparky and finely detailed.

The rest of the line-up are nearer the start of their careers. Sophie Daneman takes the title role, and handles Rodelinda's swifly changing emotions with great poise, meeting the different challenges in her arias with confidence. There are also two excellent counter-tenors — Daniel Taylor spectacularly virtuosic and incisive as Bertrando, and Blaž, less extrovert but soundly musical as his friend Udolfo — and a first-class, firm-toned bass, Matthew Hargreaves, as Garibaldo, the co-conspirator.

All will have gained a great deal musically, but what they will have learnt about presenting Handel on stage is another matter. The production is Jonathan Miller's, the set — all-purpose, dirty-white flats — Claudia Meyer's. With a few more chairs strawn about, the distressed design could happily have accommodated a David Alden production of Handel, but Miller's approach lacks his insight and potency.

Unlike Alden, or for that matter Peter Sellars, Miller appears not to believe that Handel's stage works contain as much dramatic intensity and delineation of character as any opera by Mozart or Verdi. Here interaction between the protagonists is minimal, and what the music is expressing is made to seem incidental. The result is little more than a concert performance until the last half hour, when Miller starts to trick out the action with a few gags, and turns what should be a touching, serious ending into a tongue-in-cheek piece of hummer. Singers this good, and an opera this good, deserve better.

Unholy trinity offers food for thought



Leoni's Quo Vadis in London's Soho, which is destined for makeover into a mega-restaurant PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Marx is on the menu as Hirst and White join forces for latest entry in the mega-eaterie stakes, writes Owen Bowcott

THE fashion for celebrity restaurants as dining palaces for the well-heeled masses is about to enrol one of the oddest trinites ever assembled to promote dining out.

The erstwhile political theorist Karl Marx, the bad-tempered chef Marco Pierre White, and the formaldehyde-obsessed artist Damien Hirst may shortly be lending their names to the makeover of a central London eaterie.

Such an odd assortment of characters may not immediately tempt haute cuisine taste buds, but the publicity agents retained to relaunch Leoni's Quo Vadis in Soho's Dean Street are optimistic about the recipe.

With rooms for as many as 400 customers, the new venture follows in the well-trodden path of successes such as Quaglino's and Mezzo, both of which cater for several hundred guests at a time.

Leoni's Quo Vadis, with its peeling, olive green exterior, tricolour flags and starched, traditional table cloths, was the first Italian restaurant in Soho when it opened its doors in 1956. The building also occupies a minor role in history as the site of Marx's home between 1851 and 1856. A blue plaque on the wall records his residency.

The imminent transformation of the restaurant appears to conform to the trend for presenting eating out as theatrical entertainment. With ever higher rents, a fast turnover of clients is necessary to recoup the heavy outlay for glitzy redecoration.

Damien Hirst, the Turner Prize winner best known for his glass tanks containing dead cows and sheep suspended in formaldehyde, will be responsible for selecting the furniture and colour scheme.

One source said that the dining rooms would be a gallery to display his works and that he would be on 10 per cent of the restaurant's takings.

Several reports have suggested that pickled sharks and stuffed bears might feature in his designs.

Deceased herbivores, all too easily associated in the public mind with BSE scares, will, it is hinted, be absent from any glass cases that may be on view.

For Marco Pierre White, the collaboration is the latest in a rapid expansion which has seen him take over several central London restaurants in recent years — the Hyde Park Hotel, the Criterion, the Mirabelle, and Les Saveurs in Mayfair.

Such aggrandisement might threaten a lesser chef with indignation.

Karl Marx's posthumous endorsement for the project has been problematical.

The publicity agent, Matthew Freud, could not be contacted yesterday, but it is understood that at one stage the restaurant was due to be renamed Marx.

Another suggestion was to attach his name to a vodka bar in the new complex.

The few remaining family-owned Italian restaurants in Dean Street bemoaned the passing of an era. At Leoni, the proprietor, Germano Marzotto, was gloomy. "It's a shame to see a cosy place like that go," he observed. "These large, new restaurants are serving dinners like a factory. It's becoming industrialised."

Nearby La Tavernetta was open but almost empty. "My rent and rates are £100,000 a year," explained the manager, Giovanni Lal.

"All the film companies have moved out of Soho because no one can park here. People don't want to eat three-course meals any more."

Rail sell-off advice fees 'cost £450m'

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

THE Government was last night dragged back into the politically damaging row over privatisation excesses and "fat cat pay" following revelations that City and legal advice on the rail sell-off programme has cost the taxpayer more than £450 million.

News of the huge fees collected by advisers to the Government, British Rail and Railtrack comes after last week's revelations that directors of the recently privatised train leasing company, Porterbrook, are to pocket a windfall of nearly £80 million on the sale of the company to Stagecoach.

Labour — keen to put the Government under pressure on an issue which has proved a persistent political liability for the Conservatives — immediately demanded that John Major and his ministers denounce the latest example of privatisation largesse.

Glenda Jackson, the party's transport spokeswoman, has written to the Prime Minister calling for an immediate clamp down on the newly privatised rail industry to ensure that the excesses of gas, water and electricity privatisation were not repeated.

She warned last night that a refusal to condemn the latest examples of privatisation excess would provide a "long hot summer" for Mr Major and his cabinet colleagues.

"British taxpayers are sick and tired of people being made instant millionaires at their expense. John Major should stop stroking the fat cats and start condemning them," she said.

News that City bankers, lawyers and accountants working on rail privatisation have earned such huge fees were revealed in a written reply to Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody from the Transport Minister, John Watts.

It shows that since 1992/93 British Rail has paid £278 million for legal, financial and accounting advice to prepare the industry for what is seen as one of the most complex sell-offs.

The Department of Transport, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising and the Office of Rail Regulation paid out a further £97 million, while Railtrack, the company which controls the national infrastructure of track and signalling, spent another £78 million on advice.

The total spending of £453 million was condemned by Mrs Dunwoody, MP for Crewe and Nantwich, as "yet another Tory scandal" and a waste of money which could have been used to modernise the network.

The proposed £475 million sale of Porterbrook to South West Trains, owned by the Stagecoach, comes just over seven months after the leasing company was bought by its management and would leave its managing director, Sandy Anderson, with a personal profit of £39 million.

However, the deal could yet fall foul of the competition authorities.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport last night said that rewards earned by Mr Anderson and his colleagues were a matter for the company.

He also said that the professional fees paid out by the Government during the rail sell-off were balanced by the benefits of the privatisation programme.

Benefit fraud hotline 'a gimmick'

David Hencks Westminster Correspondent

LABOUR last night denounced a new hotline to be launched today by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, urging the general public to speak out against benefit cheats, as "a gimmick" to crack down on fraud.

Henry McLeish, the party's social security spokesman, who said he backed tougher measures to curb benefit fraud, called instead for a much bigger crackdown on private landlords who make millions by defrauding housing benefit.

The Government's initiative comes only weeks after ministers axed a £3.5 million a year benefit helpline, to aid claimants who were finding difficulty filling in forms to claim benefit, as part of a

series of economies to cut down on the soaring social security bill.

The new line — backed by an advertising slogan "Know of a benefit rip-off? Give us a telephone tip-off" — will be in the words of Oliver Heald, the junior social security minister, "pay for itself" — and could make a profit if the response equals that found in the first five pilot areas.

More than 13,000 calls were received in the five areas where the phonenumber was tested — Thameside, Tunbridge Wells, Hull, Blackburn and Burnley — and half of them yielded information which enabled social security staff to question suspect claimants.

Mr Lilley's decision to launch the line will come just as he has received a detailed report from a cabinet committee on frauds set up by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, which is expected to lead to further tightening of regulations surrounding overseas claimants.

Officials, including Alan Kemp, Mr Heseltine's special adviser, who sits on the committee, are thought still to believe that Mr Lilley has underestimated the scale of the problem.

Mr Lilley is also under fire from the all-party Commons Social Security Committee, chaired by Labour MP Frank Field, a former director of the Child Poverty Action Group, which has been critical of the ministry's success in tracking down fraudsters.

"The committee recently took evidence from local authorities which suggest that there is an organised racket involving people obtaining fraudulent national insurance numbers in order to claim benefits.

Today Mr Lilley will claim

that action against fraud among people claiming benefits and pensions has already produced savings in excess of £1 billion last year and will say the figure could rise during the current year.

Yesterday both Labour and the Liberal Democrats welcomed further measures to curb fraud, though Labour was particularly critical about the phone line.

Mr McLeish said Labour would tackle fraud by hitting powerful figures like landlords, who were making large sums by letting accommodation at very high prices or defrauding the benefit offices together with false claims. He added: "The launch of the phone line seems just another gimmick, coming after the closure of the benefits helpline." But he could not offer any pledges that Labour would restore the benefits helpline.

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CBI masks fall in pay to curb call for basic wage

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

RESEARCH showing Britain's lowest paid workers sliding deeper into poverty is being kept under wraps by the Confederation of British Industry for fear it will fuel demands for a minimum wage.

With the employer's organisation anxious about Labour's plans for a floor under wages, senior CBI figures have blocked the publication of internal data showing that some of Britain's most vulnerable workers have suffered pay cuts over the past two years.

Worsening conditions in cleaning, hotels and catering pushed up the number of people earning less than £2.40 an hour by more than 20 per cent between 1994 and 1995, the CBI research shows. In many areas, pay packets dropped significantly.

Some CBI staff argued privately that the data should be made public, to demonstrate the higher cost and consequent additional job losses which could be associated with minimum wages — and reinforce the CBI's long-held opposition to state intervention in the labour market.

But senior staff are concerned that publishing the research could backfire, by provoking more concern about the problem of low pay. The research has been seen by Adair Turner, the CBI director general.

One CBI source said: "At first it was thought we could make a big song and dance about how many people would be laid off. But then we thought the opposite effect might be achieved. Basically, the politics were too scary."

Lobby groups attacked the CBI for withholding research which could shape policies to help the low paid. Bharti Patel, deputy director of the Low Pay Unit, said: "Suppressing information is not exactly helpful to a serious and well informed debate. Unless we admit the scale of the problem we can hardly start addressing it. Whatever figures the CBI has should be made available. Certainly we have never hidden any of our data, whether or not it supported our case."

John Cridland, the CBI's head of employment policy, admitted the research had been carried out, but said it was being kept quiet until the cause of the deterioration had been identified.

"Our numbers are based on official New Earnings Survey figures — but with our own information added in. We have been in contact with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to discover the background," he said.

The research was not the agenda of any of the CBI's policy committees. "We are simply not in the business of knee-jerk reactions," he said. "The view in-house was that we should check the numbers out first."

But Mr Cridland insisted the research would not alter the organisation's official line against a national minimum wage, which is endorsed by most members.

"These figures would not cause us to re-write our argument," he said. "That is now decided."

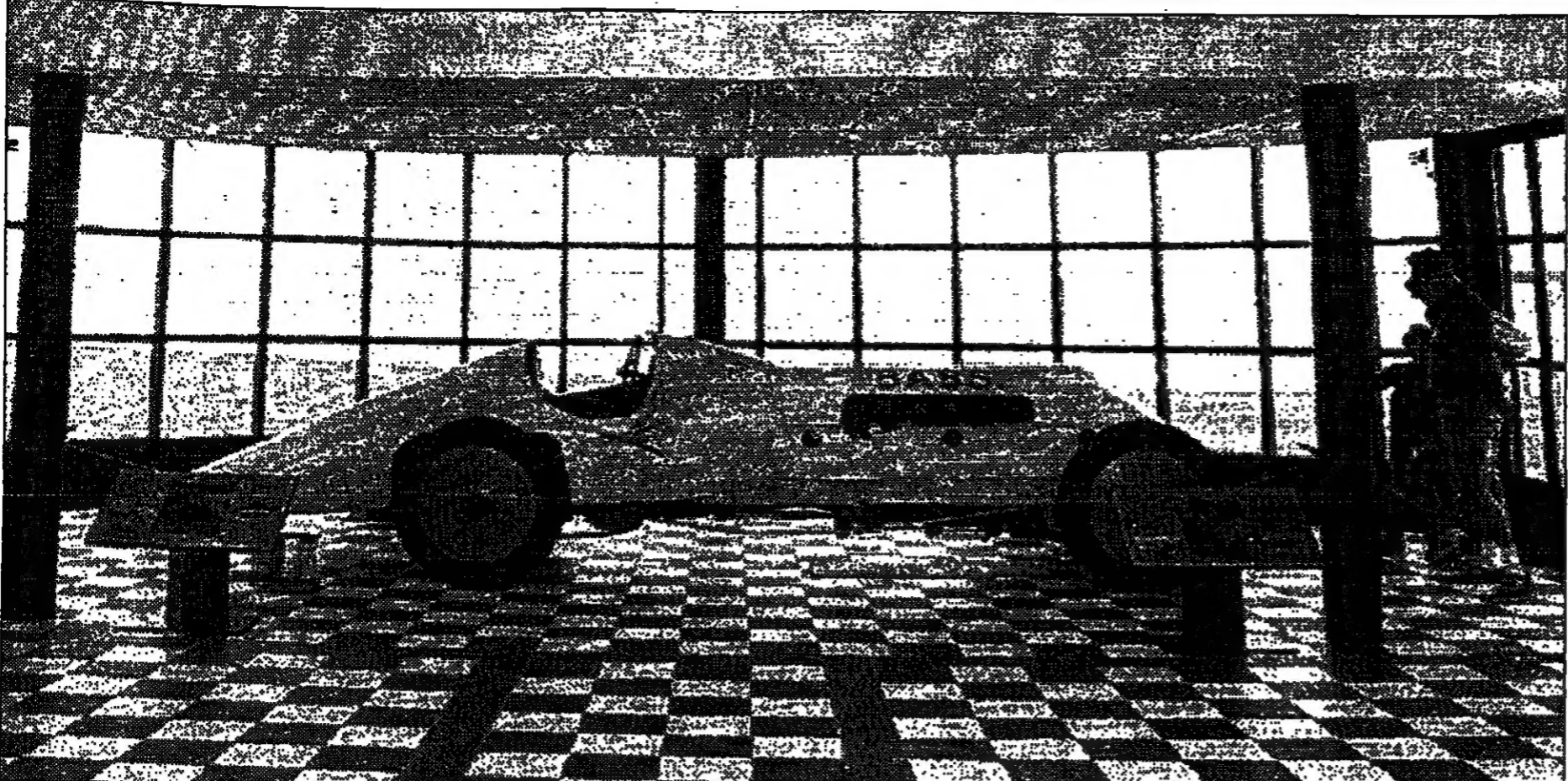
He said the numbers could be used on either side of the argument, with the research indicating that the cost of a minimum wage of about \$4 an hour could now be about \$5.5 billion each year — £1 billion up on last year's estimate.

"Depending on your starting point, you can play this either way — in favour or against a minimum wage."

The CBI has asked the ONS to investigate specific areas of concern, including catering and agriculture, which were previously covered by wages councils and youth wages.

The ONS has denied CBI suggestions that the increase in the number of low-paid workers could be the result of changes in the firms sampled. "The pattern described by the CBI looks like a real change in the labour market to us," an ONS official said. "But we are still looking at it."

The CBI is concerned that while people in continuous employment are seeing their pay rising at least in line with inflation, starting rates in certain areas are collapsing. This could be fuelling job insecurity, CBI officials believe, because workers know that if they are made redundant the chances of finding a job with equivalent pay levels are remote.



Babs, restored to her former glory after years of painstaking work, is now on display in the Museum of Speed at Pendine Sands

PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN J. ELLIOTT

They buried fast Babs, but now she's back

Car that 70 years ago set a world record then killed her owner has gained a place in the hall of fame. John Ezard reports

FANS of fast cars call it "the greatest comeback since Lazarus". Babs, the racer which broke the world land speed record 70 years ago, is on show again.

She has been dug out of the funeral pit where she was buried on a Welsh beach after virtually decapitating her owner.

After 16 years work, she has now been restored to her old mean, extravagant glory, and given pride of place in the Museum of Speed overlooking the beach at Pendine Sands, Carmarthenshire.

This was where John Godfrey Parry Thomas, one of Britain's most popular and successful car racers, set a new record of 171.02mph in her in April, 1926.

Parry Thomas — pushing the one-tonne vehicle to her limits and using aviation fuel — died in her a year later when she crashed to a new record attempt. Colleagues were so horrified that they buried the car in

the sands of the six-mile beach.

Pendine Sands was regarded as one Britain's best race spots in the 1920s because of its flat, hard surface.

Parry Thomas, son of a vicar, had been chief engineer at Leyland Motors.

He designed the Leyland Eight, a failed but still cherished rival to the Rolls Royce. Only 16 models were produced.

His speed record rivals were the better-financed Sir Henry Segrave and Malcolm Campbell.

Babs was a Higham Special which he bought for only £150, adding new carburetors, a long, distinctive tail and 12 exhausts. The car, named after a friend's daughter, misfired and veered alarmingly when setting the record. In February 1927, Campbell raised it to 174mph.



Parry Thomas and Babs cross the finish line after breaking the land speed record at Pendine Sands in April 1926

On his mandatory second run, Babs went out of control and turned over on him. He was buried near Brooklands race track,

Hampshire, where he had a cottage. Owen Wyn Owen, engineer and car enthusiast, dug up the vehicle, restored it and returned it to its

scene of triumph and disaster. It has a V12 Liberty aeroplane engine and aluminium body.

Chris Delaney, Carmarthenshire museums officer, said yesterday: "It is amazing how many people are fascinated by Babs and the land speed record. Apparently, she can still do 100mph or so."

US firms make a bomb as terror pays dividends

Ian Katz and Mark Tran report on the latest growth industry and an unwitting beneficiary of recent disasters in the US

ANTHONY Barringer got rich last week. He didn't win the lottery or strike oil. He was the unwitting beneficiary of terror.

During the 1980s, the British-born inventor developed a machine that "sniffs" out explosives. He retired from his company, Barringer Technologies, in 1992 but hung on to a slice of its stock.

Last week, amid the panic generated by the assumed explosion on TWA flight 800 and the Atlanta bombing on July 27, stocks soared in companies producing security equipment.

The value of Dr Barringer's 55,000 shares shot briefly to more than \$750,000 (£500,000) last Monday, before the company's stock price settled at around \$8, more than 400 per cent up on its recent level.

The stocks of Invision, another such company based in California, rose to more than \$30 from around \$11 before the TWA disaster, then dropping to about \$20. Invision makes the CTX 5000 bomb-detection device, which uses technology similar to medical

CAT scans to spot suspicious densities inside luggage.

Dr Barringer is wary of appearing to profit from the misfortunes of others. "The run on bomb detection stocks is a fortuitous result of the latest events," he said, apologetically.

But he believes incidents such as the Atlanta bombing will wake up Americans to the threat of terrorism. "The thing about Europe is that there is percentage wise much more terrorism. Here it wasn't such a big problem, but the whole ball game's changed following Oklahoma City and these latest events," he said.

John Wood, president of Thermedics, a Massachusetts company that makes bomb detection equipment, agreed. "In this country, we're still using stuff designed to find knives and pistols," he said.

Dr Barringer never intended to become involved in the counter-terrorism business. As a young man he planned to follow his father into mineral exploration in Canada, studying for a PhD in

geology at London's Imperial College. In 1964 he moved to Canada to work for a mineral prospecting firm but he quickly tired of hunting for ore deposits on foot.

By the mid-1960s Dr Barringer was developing a device that would help find mineral deposits by detecting mercury vapour. The Pentagon gave him a grant to adapt it to monitor underground nuclear tests.

In the 1970s he was commissioned by the South African mining magnate Henry Oppenheimer to convert his sniffing equipment into an aerial prospecting system. But although it worked fine in South Africa, he could not get it to work in Canada where Mr Oppenheimer wanted to use it.

So Dr Barringer was delighted when, in the early 1980s, the Canadian government offered him \$1 million to adapt his machines to sniff out explosives and drugs.

Barringer machines are now used in all five big British airports and by law enforcement agencies in Europe and the United States.

Even if he wanted to realise his unexpected profit, Dr Barringer will have to wait a while. He has spent days searching his home, but cannot find his share certificates.

TV gardener Hamilton dies during cycle run

John Ezard

GOFF Hamilton, cherished as a solid, earth-under-the-fingernails gardener by millions of television viewers, died yesterday while taking part in a sport he loved.

Mr Hamilton, aged 59, presenter of BBC's *Gardeners' World*, fell from his bike during a charity cycle run near Merthyr Tydfil. A nurse tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

He had had a heart attack last year. He listed cycling, with music, as one of his chief hobbies and said a main aim in his life was "wherever possible to avoid using a car".

His 17-year spell on *Gardeners' World* was praised by one critic as "magnificent" for the gimmick-free directness of his presentation.

A robust, outdoor figure, he attracted admirers to his 5½ acres at Barnsdale, Rutland, even though it was not open to the public.

Mr Hamilton went to Writtle agricultural college, Essex, but learned his gardening in the Lea Valley nursery belt of Hertfordshire, where his family moved when he was two.

In 1970, working as a self-employed nurseryman, he met the editor of *Garden News*. This led to a column and the editor's chair at *Practical Gardening*.

He lived at Barnsdale with his second wife Lynda. He had three sons by his first marriage. Asked once what he would like for his epitaph, he said: "A little sign that says *Cercidiphyllum Japonica*, which is the name of the tree I want planted over me."

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Treasury seeks to sweeten DSS office sale

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pective buyers included discussions with the management consultants Deloitte and Touche, acting for Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, on whether firms would

be interested in paying "little or no up front capital sum" for the offices.

Natwest Markets, which is also advising on the sale of Ministry of Defence homes, advised the DSS: "There needs to

be an element of short-term opportunism and entrepreneurial skills in the partnership, to identify and capitalise on development opportunities. A lot of active management will be involved."

'I prefer to examine things that are still taboo, rather than straightforward sex which people have been reading about since they were 13. Things like body hair, one of our last taboos.'

Fiona McIntosh

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Health and farm officials summoned to Bonn amid calls for UK sheep culls and doubts on milk safety

Germany fuels BSE crisis

Ian Traynor in Bonn and Paul Brown

THE German government has called an emergency meeting of health and farming officials in Bonn today, amid demands for bigger culls of British livestock because of mad cow disease and criticism of British policy on the beef crisis.

Jochen Borchert, German agriculture minister, called for the risk to humans from BSE to be reassessed, and said Britain's scheme to slaughter infected herds did not go far enough to eradicate the risk.

Other German officials, maintaining their hardline reputation on the beef crisis, urged that British calves, sheep and lambs be included in the culling programme.

Amid reports that German scientists do not exclude the possibility that milk could be vulnerable to BSE infection, Mr Borchert told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper yesterday that Britain would have to "face the consequences" of the new evidence.

But the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday that trials to see if calves could get the disease from the milk of infected cows had proved negative. It had no plans to conduct any more.

Three microbiologists who have criticised the Government's handling of the BSE crisis remained adamant yesterday that the ministry was still being too complacent.

David Lacey, of Leeds university, believes that transmission from cow to cow, perhaps through contamination of land and grass, is possible. Researchers Harsh Narang

and Stephen Dealler said — five years before the Government accepted the argument — that BSE was being transmitted from cow to calf. They believe transmission in milk is possible.

Despite one of the most intensive research efforts of modern times, no infective agent of BSE has been identified in milk or in any tissue except nerve tissue. If milk did become suspect it would turn a crisis into a catastrophe. The dairy industry would suffer the same sales loss as beef, and the Common Agricultural Policy would be thrown into chaos.

Klaudia Martini, environment minister of the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz, called for British dairy products to be subject to the EU's export ban on British beef.

Last month Bonn extended the import ban on British cat-

tle byproducts such as gelatine, tallow, and bull semen, despite the European Commission's decision to relax it. German officials are calling for tougher and more extensive bans to be imposed.

Ms Martini also argued that British sheep and lambs should be tested and their export proscribed until it was certain that there was no risk of infection from them.

Hans Wiesen, agriculture minister of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, said the export ban on British beef should be widened and the calves of infected cows slaughtered.

In the past month, German officials and the media have been incensed by reports alleging that Brussels covered up evidence of the impact of mad cow disease on humans in the early 1990s, and by reports from the German ambassador in Italy that Britain

is heating the beef ban through illegal exports via Scotland, Ireland and France. German border and customs authorities were ordered to step up their monitoring of the meat trade and tighten their controls.

Ms Martini joined several of her colleagues in Germany in denouncing British policy, strategy, and propaganda on the beef crisis.

"We don't know what kind of game the British are playing with us. But one thing is sure: this is how public confidence in the entire European Union will be destroyed."

Barbara Stamm, Bavarian health minister, described British policy on providing information to its EU partners as unbearable. "Co-operation can't be like this. The British Government is forgetting what remains of its credibility."



Jochen Borchert... wants risk to humans reassessed

Ulster enmity casts shadow over festival

David Sharrock on parade disquiet

SUNSHINE and a carnival parade along the Falls Road kicked off Felle an Fhobail in West Belfast yesterday, billed to be Ireland's largest community festival.

But even before it began, Unionists criticised the strongly nationalist slant of the festival, which receives funding from government-aided bodies. Belfast city council, BBC Children in Need, Guinness and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

The festival programme's foreword leaves no doubts about its politics, saying that "the Irish peace process" had created an opportunity for a just and lasting peace. "We are therefore saddened and dismayed that the British government squandered and abused this opportunity," writes festival director Kate Pickering.

That was seized upon by Belfast Unionist councillors, who threatened to withdraw funding in future. An Ulster Unionist councillor Jim Rodgers said the festival was in breach of the city's "non-sectarian and non-political" guidelines.

Mr Rodgers also criticised the festival's radio station. "They are complaining bitterly from Protestant estates in West Belfast about the sectarian songs on that channel," he said.

IRA and republican prisoners in the Maze prison are also holding a week of sporting activities and discussions, the programme says.

The Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, who



Festive spirits... The carnival parade on the Falls Road. "The people of West Belfast want a lasting peace"

launched the festival yesterday, takes second place to the US ambassador to the Irish republic Jean Kennedy Smith in the programme's acknowledgements.

The festival also previews a new play about IRA leader Michael Collins, titled The Classic, which claims that he was murdered by British agents. The critic of the Irish News, which is sponsoring the event, found the "stage-English" characters difficult to swallow with their "silly-toilet accents and silly mannerisms".

"In a bizarre scene set in Cairo British agents who plotted to kill Collins are turned into child-molesters. Surely there is no need to crack so many eggs into the pudding, especially when feeding the converted."

Kate Pickering rejects the charges of sectarianism. "We respect other communities within our festival. The people of West Belfast want a lasting peace, we are doing everything to achieve that."

The festival's single effort at offering the Unionist perspective comes in the form of a photographic exhibition called Carson's Army — the story of the 36th (Ulster) Division.

John Hunter, secretary of the Ulster Society, said: "It's a drop in the ocean when you look at the rest of the programme."

Protestants in the Shankill Road resent the festival's claim to represent all of West Belfast. The Progressive Unionist Party leader David Irvine said he would not be attending. "I'm not sure I'd be welcome. It's a tragedy that this society has a West Belfast festival that is a Catholic West Belfast festival. They claim to be inclusive but that's not the way they've set things up. It's been heavily infiltrated by Sinn Fein."

Conferences cancelled as flight from the North speeds up

David Sharrock, Ireland Correspondent

THE flight from Ulster continues this summer as Northern Ireland balances precariously between peace and renewed conflict.

Two international events have been cancelled at the last moment because of the widespread violence sparked by last month's Drumcree Orange parade and the fear that this Saturday's Apprentice Boys' rally in Londonderry will plunge the province into deeper turmoil.

Tourism chiefs are alarmed at the dramatic drop in bookings following last

year's best ever figures, when Northern Ireland was basking in summer heat and solid ceasefire. Even local people are holidaying abroad.

Organisers of the COSAC 96 — Computer Security Audit and Control — conference have moved the venue to the Irish Republic because delegates began cancelling. Many were from mainland Britain and had visited Northern Ireland many times. But other cancellations have come from the United States, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Russia.

The event, which was due to have taken place at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, next month, has now been

switched to the Slieve Russell across the border in County Cavan for September 10-12.

Organiser David Lynas from the Belfast-based AKA Associates said: "We have been inundated with calls from delegates who are not prepared to visit Northern Ireland. They are just not confident in their own safety and there's nothing I can say that will change their minds."

He added: "The events of last month had a worse impact on the rest of the world than the previous years of ongoing violence."

Only a day earlier a construction trade fair due to attract an estimated 25,000 visitors was also cancelled.

Around 200 companies from across the world had planned to attend the International Building Exhibition.

Bill Caughy of WPEC Industrial Promotions said: "Nobody could give us any guarantee that the events surrounding the 12th of July would not repeat themselves on August 10 so we decided not to go ahead."

Even an agricultural show at Killester, near Castlebar in Co Tyrone, tomorrow has been cancelled.

Trade in some shops in Castlebar has dropped 25 per cent following circulation of an anonymous letter among Protestant businessmen warning them of a boycott.

It was soon after we rode out from the wooden corral that I knew I was falling for my giant of a Slovak. I shall not speak his name, nor shall I invent one for him: events are too recent for me to slip into the usual conceits.

News in brief

Stowaway teenager returns to Britain

A 14-year-old girl was on her way back to Britain yesterday after stowing away on a ferry to France. The mother of Clair Syddall said Brittany Ferries would have to "answer some questions" after the teenager managed to board a ferry going from Portsmouth to St Malo.

Essex police put out an appeal after Clair, a diabetic, went missing from home on Saturday, and ports were alerted. She arrived in St Malo early yesterday, and was put on a ferry to Portsmouth, where she was met by her parents last night.

Brittany Ferries promised an investigation and said: "It is a bit of a mystery how she managed to get on board." Clair's mother, Mary Syddall, of Cressing, near Braintree, Essex, said she had received a call from Brittany Ferries in St Malo to say her daughter was in France. "As to how she got to Portsmouth or how she managed to get on the ferry without a ticket or a passport, we don't know."

Clair recently spent a holiday in the Domaine des Ormes area of Brittany and had wanted to return to visit friends there, police said.

IRA bomb stalls lottery grant

A DECISION on whether to grant £18 million of lottery cash to refurbish a leading theatre has been put on hold, because the building was wrecked by the IRA's Manchester bomb.

The Arts Council of England today announced that its grant to the Royal Exchange Theatre would be £3.2 million, a quarter of the level requested. But a council spokeswoman said the money — one of 56 new grants totalling more than £41 million — was intended to help keep the Exchange company going until its home was made safe and improved.

The Royal Exchange company had put in its £17 million improvement scheme before the Arts Council before the June 15 blast.

The cash aid is the fourth biggest grant announced yesterday. The biggest is £13.7 million towards an £18.6 million final phase to a project in Stratford town centre in east London, including a new performing arts centre and improvements to the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

The winning numbers in last week's lottery draw were 13, 17, 26, 28, 31, 36, and the bonus number was 44.

Plan to test 'key skills'

TEENAGERS may have to pass separate numeracy and literacy tests to win places at universities, according to plans being drawn up by government advisers. Team-working, communication skills and self-motivation could also be measured, they believe. By the end of the century, scores in these "key skills" and other achievements — held on a database — could be as important for students as A-level grades.

A potential revolution in measuring achievement is being pioneered by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, working with government curriculum advisers and funded by the Department for Education and Employment. A model of the database, initially intended to give universities electronic access to applicants' exam results, is due to be unveiled next week.

P is for problem cars

NEW P-registration cars were still breaking down in droves yesterday, fourth day of the motor trade's busiest month. Many drivers got no further than the end of their streets as their coveted possessions ground to a halt.

The AA and RAC said they had been called out to almost 500 P-reg cars over the weekend. Some had seized gearboxes, oil leaks, collapsed suspension and even petrol caps which would not come off. Others suffered loss of power, faulty indicators and doors that would not shut.

An AA spokeswoman said: "Part of the trouble is owners haven't read their handbooks properly or they have been wrongly advised by the salesman. In other cases, dealers have obviously been too busy to carry out the pre-delivery inspections properly."

Queen Mother is 96

MORE than 1,000 people turned up at Sandringham yesterday to celebrate the Queen Mother's 96th birthday. The Queen Mother, in a mint-green floral dress coat and matching hat, took a 33-minute walkabout among cheering well-wishers.

She walked carefully with a stick but appeared to be in good health and showed no ill effects from the hip replacement she underwent last November.

Potholer dies in Pennines

A 34-year-old woman potholer died of head injuries when she fell while climbing in the Yorkshire Pennines, police said. Christine Bleakley, from Irvingstown, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, was climbing in Quaking Pot at Ingleborough, near Settle, on Saturday. She had been staying at Tam Pits Conservation Centre, Chorley, Lancashire.

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مكتبة القرآن



Claire Gibson, who has lived in Coat for two years, at the entrance to the proposed factory site. 'There are worries about security and there will be an ever present fear about an accident waiting to happen'

Brigadier joins battle over hamlet magazine

Geoffrey Gibbs reports on well-to-do Somerset residents preparing for war over plans to build an arms factory

IT IS the sort of hamlet estate agents describe as "well to do" and "sought after." Properties rarely come on the market. When they do, they don't come cheaply. Home to a mixed community of farmers, professional people and senior military officers — including Brigadier Robin Seaby, commander of the British Forces in Bosnia three years ago — it is the very picture of English rural tranquillity. But the residents of Coat, Somerset, (population 100) are furious about a company's plans to build an explosives magazine in a disused railway cutting on their doorstep.

Interstate Technical Products has been discreetly manufacturing a range of small arms ammunition on an industrial estate in the nearby town of Martock for 13 years. It turns over about £330,000 a year but needs to move to a more isolated site to expand its business, about 95 per cent of which is done with overseas police and military customers. Bob Lawson, the company's owner and manager, thought

he had found the ideal site in the 400-yard long railway cutting to the east of Coat, listed on council records as a waste tip. His application for an explosives factory licence under the 1975 Explosives Act secured the assent of Somerset county council last week after the Health and Safety Executive approved. But there will be a battle royal when he submits his planning application to the local planning authority. "Nobody in the village will break the law but we are going to oppose this right down

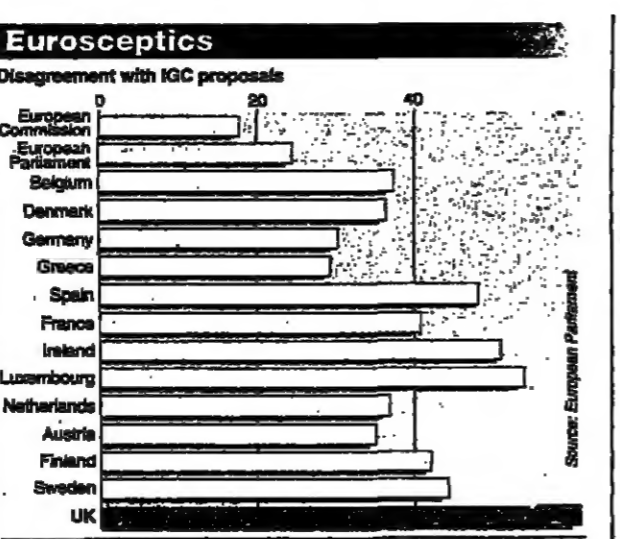
the line at every stage of the planning process," said a Coat resident. Villagers say CS gas will be stored at the installation. Brigadier Seaby said in a statement to the county council that villagers were very concerned at the risk posed by the gas in the event of an accident. "Given the correct wind vector and a breeze of only six miles an hour, the CS gas hazard would reach dwelling houses in the village within two minutes. Surely this cannot be acceptable." Villagers are due to formulate an action plan at a meeting later this month and are printing tee-shirts with a Keep Coat Bulletproof logo. A fighting fund is being raised to employ a planning expert to contest the application. A £15,000 counter bid has been made to try to buy the railway cutting in the hope of strangling the scheme at birth.

Mr Lawson, who wants to be able to store up to 40 tonnes of explosives at the site, says the buildings would be screened by grassed earth banks so that any blast in the event of an accident would go upwards. Most of the time the magazine would be empty after orders were shipped out. He denies the village would be disturbed by noise from an underground tunnel testing range and says the company's livelihood will be affected if it is unable to move to the more isolated site. "I would like to reassure residents that Interstate is heavily regulated and controlled by the Explosive Inspectorate of the HSE who have approved the plans on grounds of safety," he said in a statement issued after the

county council decision. But a villager said: "People are very scared. They are scared of robberies from the site and scared that there may be an accident." They are also opposed to any industry near their homes. Claire Gibson, who has lived in Coat for two years and is expecting her first child, said the hamlet was an inappropriate site for the proposed magazine. "There are worries about security and there will be an ever present fear about an accident waiting to happen."

Britain faces more EU clashes

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent
BRITAIN is heading for a collision with its European partners over integration, according to the European Policy Forum think-tank. The Government is in a minority of one on 35 issues, and opposes 98 out of 148 proposals put forward for the Inter-Governmental Conference next July. The details have emerged in talks with the Irish presidency of the European Union, which show that disagreement extends far beyond the main row over adopting a single currency in 1999. Among the subjects which Britain is isolated are extending qualified majority voting on all subjects where Britain has a veto; including the Social Chapter in the new European Treaty; extending



These include rejecting an extension of the European Commission in foreign policy and giving individual member states more flexibility over interpreting European Union directives. Altogether Britain has rejected 96 proposals. Germany has rejected 29, France 38, Denmark 35, Finland 40 and Sweden 42. Graham Mather, president of the European Policy Forum and a Conservative MEP, said yesterday: "This shows it is not just the single currency that Britain is opposing, underlining the need for a referendum, but also suggests that Britain may have to negotiate a flexible agreement on a whole range of issues." Britain's Relationship with the EU, by Graham Mather and Wes Hines. Available from European Policy Forum, 20, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. £7.50

Rifkind ready to 'tear up Birt plan'

Andrew Culf on how Foreign Secretary is ready to save BBC World Service
MALCOLM Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, may tear up John Birt's heavily-criticised plans for the BBC World Service, according to ministerial sources. Mr Rifkind, angered by having been kept in the dark about the changes until the day of the public announcement last month, is opposed to the merger of the World Service's English language and news programmes with BBC domestic departments. The World Service is paid for by the Foreign Office. According to Cabinet sources, reported by the Daily Mail, he is to use a meeting in



clamour of opposition to the Birt changes. Protests have come from prominent politicians and public figures and serving and former World Service staff. The select committee's report accused Mr Birt, the BBC's director general, of misjudgment and a cavalier attitude, and told ministers not to automatically accept the changes. According to the Daily Mail, ministers feel that ripping the programme-making heart of the World Service out of its Bush House headquarters and moving it to an isolated and anonymous new centre at White City, west London, would be disastrous for its independence and character. Mr Rifkind ordered the setting up of a joint BBC/Foreign Office working group, to be chaired by civil servant Christopher Battiscombe and Sam Younger, managing di-

rector of the World Service, to analyse the changes. It will have access to independent experts and is expected to report in late September. It is understood it was set up partly to ensure no irreversible changes were introduced before the October showdown. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "The working group is in the process of being set up. The Foreign Secretary and Sir Christopher will meet in October to look at the working group's conclusions. There is nothing to add." Last month the BBC's governors agreed to press on with the changes, but were also keen to push ahead with a plan to move the entire World Service — including foreign language departments — to a single site at White City. The lease on Bush House expires at the end of 2004.

Poetry Competition £18,000 prize money to be won

The International Library of Poetry, an affiliate of the widely respected US National Library of Poetry, is sponsoring an International Open Amateur Poetry Competition. There will be a new contest each month and each contest will award one Grand Prize of £1,000, plus ten Second Prizes of £50 each. The closing date for entry is 31st August 1996. Another competition begins on 1st September 1996. The competition is open to all and entry is free. "It's always exciting to discover new talent. We have been sponsoring competitions in the United States for more than ten years now — and it's a special pleasure to be running these events in the UK," stated Howard Ely of The International Library of Poetry. "We're especially interested in receiving poems from new or unpublished poets." How to Enter: Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in one original poem, any subject, any style, to: The International Library of Poetry, Dept. 9175, FREEPOST LON 2229, WHITSTABLE, Kent CT5 3BR. Poems should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Entries must be typed or neatly handwritten and will not be returned. All poets who enter will receive a reply along with complete competition rules, within nine weeks.



The Coming of Dawn, featured above, is one of the Library's recent deluxe hardbound anthologies.

Publication Opportunity
All of the poems entered into the competition will also be considered for inclusion in one of the Library's forthcoming anthologies. Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organisation have included *The Threshold of a Dream*, *Days of Future's Past*, *Of Diamonds and Rust*, and *The Coming of Dawn*, among others.

World's Largest Poetry Organisation
The International Library of Poetry was founded in 1987 to promote the work and achievements of contemporary poets — and is now recognised as the largest organisation of its kind in the world. In recent years it has awarded more than £60,000 in prize money to more than 5,000 poets worldwide. In the next twelve months £18,000 in prize money will be awarded in the UK alone.

Survival hope for faithful sea horse

Martin Wainwright
IN A COUPLE of undignified plastic bags, spiny sea horses have set out for a national breeding experiment which shows every sign of rescuing their failing population. Betrayed by pollution and a touching loyalty to a single mate, the spiny sea horse, one of Britain's most curious creatures, has been successfully reared in captivity in Britain for the first time — multiplying from eight adults in June to a 250-strong family. Bagged-up deliveries of the 3cm juveniles have been despatched to 15 marine centres from Oban to Newquay by staff at the Sea Life Park, in Weymouth, Dorset, who concocted a plankton diet for the infant spines. The species, *Hippocampus ramulosus*, had previously defied attempts at rearing because food provided for other types of sea horse proved fatal to its young. Neil Garrick-Malden, of the Seahorse Aquarium in Exeter, which is co-sponsoring the scheme, said: "We now need to identify existing spiny sea horse sites offshore where releasing these captivity-bred young will have the best chance of success." The first bags of spines



Spiny sea horse... captive breeding improves prospects of species that mates for life

were decanted into transitional tanks at Scarborough, where naturalists are hoping to repeat an influx of the species which surprised fishermen along the Channel and Welsh coasts last year. Spiny sea horses appeared in fish catches in numbers not seen for more than 50 years, raising hopes of a natural recolonisation as well as providing adults for the breeding experiment. The sea horse has fascinated scientists since appearing — by mistake — in Thomas Muffet's 16th century encyclopaedia of insects. The male produces offspring from its stomach pouch. Pairing for life, its reluctance to breed with another after the death of its mate, has handicapped it.

Benefits agency makes £40m pension error

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent
AN ERROR by the Benefits Agency has given at least 50,000 former public sector workers a double increase in their pensions every year for up to five years. The agency admits the mistake but is denying liability for the costs, which run into tens of millions of pounds. Pension funds are being left to pick up the bill. According to the agency, some funds are seeking to claw back the overpayments from their pensioners. Others are merely reducing pensions to the correct level and writing off the excess paid. A Labour MP yesterday said he was writing to Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, to demand an inquiry into what appeared to be an "appalling cock-up". Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, said: "Either the pension funds are going to be out of pocket, or pensioners are going to find themselves short-changed to make up for Benefits Agency bungling." The error has affected people who have chosen to continue receiving tax-free invalidity pensions instead of the taxable state pension between state retirement age — 60 for women and 65 for men — and the maximum invalidity pension ages of 65 and 70 respectively. Public service pension schemes have to uprate occupational pensions in line with prices. But they should only uprate the sum that is the difference between the total pension and the guaranteed minimum pension — the amount of state earnings-related pension the individual would have received had the scheme not contracted out of Sarp. Owing to the agency's error, the pension schemes have continued to uprate the entire occupational pensions of people receiving invalidity pensions which have also been uprated by the agency. An agency spokesman said procedures to avoid double uprating had been devised in the 1980s by a working party of civil servants and pension scheme officials. "Regrettably, these procedures broke down in the situation where a person who is receiving invalidity pensions reaches state pension age." A notification stating that the individual had "not retired" had been sent to the relevant scheme in such cases and the scheme had consequently uprated the entire occupational pension. "It is our error, but it is not our money. It is the pension schemes who have overpaid, so they are doing different things about it," the spokesman said. The agency says it has sent 52,000 letters about the mistake to schemes in respect of pensioners still receiving invalidity pensions. One estimate puts the total affected, including those who have already passed the maximum ages for invalidity pensions, at 85,000. On the basis of these figures, the total overpaid is likely to be between £40 million and £70 million.

Tudjman fuels Mostar's war-within-war

Croat manoeuvring is helping to thwart the EU plan to reintegrate the city, writes Ian Traynor

PRESIDENT Franjo Tudjman of Croatia has a problem with free elections. Having lost, he tries to move the goalposts and demand a replay — using gerrymandering, boycotts, decrees and strong-arm tactics to reverse the defeat.

Last October his Croatian Democratic Union (CDU) lost the local elections in Zagreb. The capital's administration has since been paralysed by Mr Tudjman's refusal to accept an opposition mayor.

In Mostar, the divided capital of Herzegovina, his local proxies have thwarted the city's functioning since the CDU lost the election organised by the European Union

at the end of June. The crisis could spell the end of two years of EU administration at the centre of the Croat-Muslim battlefields.

For three years the extremist Croats who run the bigger, western side of Mostar have deployed siege tactics, ethnic cleansing, gangsterism and terror to keep the city the capital of a separate Croatian mini-state. They have defied last year's Dayton peace accords and violently attacked the EU team trying to reintegrate the city.

They now refuse to accept an election result which gives the main Muslim party 21 seats on the city council, of the CDU's 16.

Mr Tudjman finds himself hand over Dario Kordic, the former CDU leader in Mostar indicted for war crimes by the Hague tribunal. Mr Kordic has a flat in Zagreb and is regularly seen there.

In 1993, Mr Kordic spearheaded the Croatian war, which drove the Muslims out of West Mostar and subjected Muslim East Mostar to 10 months of shelling, pulverising the 18th-century bridge that linked the city over the River Neretva.

This war-within-a-war ended with the establishment of the United States-brokered Muslim-Croat Federation in March 1994, when Lord Owen as mediator gained Mr Tudjman's assent to a two-year EU administration of Mostar.

Hans Koschnick, the retired German Social Democrat mayor of Bremen who led the EU team in Mostar, quit in March in disgust, after a gruelling 20 months there.

'Chaos Days' punks battle with police in Bremen

HUNDREDS of anarchist punks, banned from holding their annual "Chaos Days" gathering in Hanover, went on the rampage through Bremen instead, German police said.

About 200 to 300 punks showered police cars with stones and fireworks on Saturday as they drove by and tried to outwit officers by hiding and then reappearing, a police spokesman said.

Police detained 74 youths, 27 of them briefly. It was not clear whether anyone had been injured.

A court banned the "Chaos Days" gathering from taking place in Hanover this year, after last year's rally there led to violent clashes with police, leaving hundreds injured and parts of the city looking like a war zone.

The festival with anarchist overtones has become an annual event over the past 11 years.

Some 6,000 police in Hanover were braced for the arrival of hordes of punks in defiance of the court ban. They detained six men, aged between 17 and 23, found carrying baseball bats, wooden batons and tear-gas spray cans.

Bremen police turned back hundreds of youths arriving at the railway station early on Saturday. Punks expressed anger that they were not allowed to gather peacefully in the city, and hundreds threw stones, bottles and molotov cocktails at the police.

Police said six officers were injured and a police vehicle set on fire and destroyed.

But Hanover was quiet on Saturday and it looked as though the anarchists had shifted the event to Bremen.

The police said they were considering sending units to Bremen from Hanover, where 2,000 punks rampaged last year.

Bullfighter's death spurs Spanish calls to end 'sport'

FRANCISCO Gázquez had virtually retired from bullfighting when he was called back to the ring a week ago. Out of practice, he was gored and trampled to death. Now Spaniards, once again, are questioning the morality of their national sport.

Gázquez was a *banderillero*, one of a team who helps weaken the bull for the matador by plunging darts into its side. But his neat dance towards the deadly horns as police lines pushed them back with shields and batons.

He would have received 80,000 pesetas (\$400) for the fight while a top matador can earn up to 6 million pesetas.

His death recalled that of another *banderillero*, Manolo Montoliú, whose heart was sliced in two in Seville's Maestranza ring four years ago, also prompting calls for bullfighting to be abolished.

At the weekend another Spanish man, José Almela, aged 39, died in El Puig after being gored at a bull fiesta, in which a bull is let loose among villagers.

Prominent opponents of bullfighting include Queen Sofia and the author Francisco Umbral, who wrote after Montoliú's death: "We cannot hope to be taken seriously as members of the European Union while we allow these massacres of man and beast to continue."

But attempts by MEPs to stop the "sport" have drawn strong opposition. It is not only seen as a part of the cultural identity of Spain but is big business.

Television rights and the young audience drawn by bullfighters with teeny-bopper appeal have made it more profitable than ever.

It also has powerful advocates. King Juan Carlos once remarked, only half in jest, that if it came to a choice between EU membership and bullfighting, he would opt for the latter.

Reburial restores Enver Pasha to his true glory

THE remains of the Turkish revolutionary Enver Pasha were laid to rest in Istanbul yesterday, far from the plains of Central Asia where he died fighting the Soviet Union in 1922.

Prayers were offered at the Sialli mosque before the reburial, with full military honours, in a mausoleum at Eternal Freedom Hill, where other leaders of the Young Turk revolution lie. They ended the rule of the Sultans over the Ottoman empire.

President Süleyman Demirel, who arranged for the remains to be retrieved from Tajikistan, attended with descendants of Enver. He had been given the honorary Pasha, meaning general or commander.

After helping to depose the Sultan Abdul-Hamid II in 1909, Enver led a coup in 1913 which brought his Committee of Union and Progress to power. He ruled as part of a triumvirate and is held responsible for taking Turkey into the first world war on the German side.

He fled in a German submarine just before the armistice in 1918. From Berlin he went to Moscow, where he failed to win Soviet support for a plot to overthrow the founder of the modern Turkish republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. But Lenin allowed him to go to Turkestan to organise the Central Asian republics for the Communist cause. He soon changed sides, joining the revolt of the Muslim Basmachi guerrillas in 1921.

He was pursuing his dream of a pan-Turkic state in the Caucasus and Central Asia when he was killed by the Red Army in what is now Tajikistan in 1922. Yesterday was the 74th anniversary of his death. Turkish scientists identified his remains earlier this year in a grave-

yard in Baldzhuan, 180 miles south-east of Dushanbe. A distinctive gold-capped tooth was found along with a surviving witness to the interment.

President Demirel said Enver Pasha had led a "whirlwind life". "He was a nationalist, an idealist and an honest soldier who loved his country," he said. "He is a hero in the eyes of the Turkish nation, his exile has ended."

Belgian PM acquires 'absolutist' powers

JEAN-LUC DEHAENE, the Belgian prime minister, has assumed the role of the absolutist French monarch Louis XIV by angry patriots and press cartoonists since he ruthlessly seized control of the economy in an attempt to prepare the country for the European Union single currency.

The man spurred by John Major two years ago for the presidency of the European Commission is now arguably the most powerful domestic politician in Europe. Belgian MPs passed three laws giving him emergency powers to raise taxes, cut social security budgets and set wage levels without prior consultation.

With a record that has annoyed the public and reduced his approval rating in opinion polls to less than 20 per cent, Mr Dehaene insists that there is no alternative to emergency measures if the economy is to meet the Maastricht criteria for joining the single currency in just over two years' time.

The government says it must make ready, since its closest neighbours and trading partners are likely to be among the first to join. About 75 per cent of its trade is with other Benelux countries, Germany and France.

At a pugacious press conference in Brussels on Friday, after a day-long cabinet meeting, Mr Dehaene said he would press ahead with strict budgetary reforms. The atmosphere of crisis was dispersed, however, when he announced that his government would be taking three weeks' holiday.

News in brief

Jihad men's jail escape

Two members of the Islamic Jihad group escaped yesterday from an Israeli jail at Beit Lid, near Tel Aviv, by tunnelling their way out.

US plane crashes

A US military plane enforcing the no-fly zone in Iraq has crashed near Dhahran, in Saudi Arabia, but the pilot escaped injury, a US military official said.

Neo-Nazi arrests

Police in Germany detained 12 neo-Nazis after breaking up a weekend march by right-wing extremists in Wismar. In Bad Harzburg youths knocked a police officer from his motorcycle, then kicked him and tried to pull off his helmet, police said. Thirty-nine extremists were arrested.

Bomb scare

A telephone bomb threat forced a Polish plane en route from Warsaw to Israel to make an emergency landing in Cyprus yesterday. No bomb was found.

Anti-graft sweep

Libyan security forces have arrested scores of traders, shop owners and a senior government official in a nationwide anti-corruption sweep. Libyans arriving in Egypt said yesterday.

Somali leader

Sussein Aided, aged 35, son of the late faction leader Mohammed Farah Aided, was chosen yesterday to succeed his father as "president" of Somalia.

Beach blast

Roberto Gurcio, aged 33, was badly injured yesterday when a bomb dropped from beach umbrella he was unfurling in Lignano Sabbiadoro, north-east Italy, and blew up in his hand.

Italy goes for Priebeke retrial

JOHAN HOOPER in Rome

ITALY set in motion the machinery for securing a retrial of the former Nazi Erich Priebeke at the weekend as it became increasingly clear that it would be impossible to extradite him to Germany.

Mr Priebeke said the decision which greeted the decision of a military court last week to free him has begun to ebb, and several prominent Italians have supported the court's ruling or questioned the way in which Mr Priebeke had been re-arrested hours later.

On Saturday an appeal court judge endorsed an order to renew the detention of the former SS officer. The order was made last Thursday by the justice minister, Giovanni Maria Flick, as Mr Priebeke and his trial judges were besieged by demonstrators outside the courthouse.

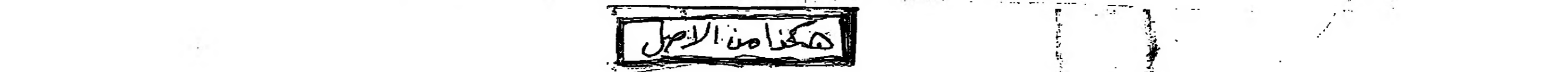
Mr Flick said the decision was justified because Italy was awaiting an extradition request from Germany. But German officials admitted at the weekend that the chances of such a request succeeding were remote.

Mr Priebeke was extradited from Argentina last November under a treaty which forbids his subsequent extradition to a third country.

A spokesman for the justice ministry in Bonn said at the weekend: "On the basis of the European agreement on extradition, a country cannot extradite someone for an offence of which he has been acquitted."

Lawyers acting for the Italian government are now trying to secure a new hearing by having Mr Priebeke's trial ruled void.

At the original trial, two petitions were submitted to the military appeal court asking for the judges to be replaced because the presiding judge, Agostino Quistelli, had made up his mind before the proceedings began. A Carabinieri general testified that, before he was allotted the case, Mr Quistelli had freed Mr Priebeke should go free.



Tanzania blocks fuel shipments and closes border as UN report reveals more massacres by Tutsi army

Screw tightens on Burundi

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

TANZANIA has added bite to the sanctions imposed on Burundi in retaliation for a military coup ten days ago by blocking oil shipments, turning back lorries at the border and halting commercial flights. Burundi's new military government is relying on another neighbour, Rwanda, to take a less rigorous approach and so ease the pain of the blockade. But the latest United Nations report, which blames Tutsi soldiers for the wholesale slaughter of Hutu civilians in recent months, will further diminish sympathy for the new regime. Tanzania has struck where it is likely to hurt most by shutting off Burundi's main

source of oil, normally delivered by railway from Dar es Salaam and then barge across Lake Tanganyika. Yesterday a Tanzanian official said they were hauling 600 tons of fuel, as well as passenger ferries, from leaving port. Lorries have been queuing at land borders since Friday. When Tanzania shut the frontier to freight, and commercial flights between the two countries have been grounded. Burundi says it has fuel stocks sufficient for several weeks, but the government is already considering rationing to conserve petrol supplies for the war against Hutu rebels. Some garages are imposing their own limits on sales to individuals. Some of Bujumbura's residents have been stockpiling supplies since sanctions were announced, even though state

radio has made no mention of the blockade. Tanzania's hard line will undoubtedly sting Burundi, but the new military regime is hoping to re-route supplies through Rwanda, where comments by some Tutsi officials suggest the government is backtracking on its commitment to a full blockade. But Rwanda is vulnerable to pressure from Uganda, which has shown little sympathy for Burundi's military. Although the blockade was imposed in response to the coup, the demands of Burundi's neighbours go wider. They are hoping, among other things, to put pressure

on the new regime to negotiate with the Hutu rebels and bring the army under control. The latest UN report confirms how deep the problems go. The UN Centre for Human Rights has uncovered 17 previously unrecorded massacres by Burundi's overwhelmingly Tutsi army in the past

One of the incidents described was on June 27 at Nyeshanza, in the battle-scarred province of Cibitoke. Hutu rebels attacked a tea convoy, a favourite economic target. Tutsi soldiers responded by rounding up about 500 people in Nyeshanza whom the army accused of being "assailants". They were marched from the town to a site near a church and murdered with guns and bayonets. After the massacre, thousands of Hutus fled the area for Zaire and Rwanda. In an effort to make his government appear more legitimate, Burundi's new military leader, Pierre Buyoya, named a 23-member government at the weekend. The announcement was delayed for several days as Major Buyoya tried to bring on board politicians accept-

able to most Burundians. He largely failed. Although the new government offers an ethnic balance with Burundi's Hutu majority receiving about the same representation as the Tutsi minority — there is little political balance. Most of the Hutus in the cabinet are from the Tutsi-dominated Uprona party, which is close to the army and played an instrumental role in creating the coup. Political heavyweights from Frodebu — the mainly Hutu party which overwhelmingly won Burundi's only free election three years ago — are noticeably absent. Some of Frodebu's former cabinet ministers, including the deposed president Sylvestre Ntibunganya, are still sheltering in Western embassies.

Although the new regime offers ethnic balance, there is little political balance

ment to a full blockade. But Rwanda is vulnerable to pressure from Uganda, which has shown little sympathy for Burundi's military. Although the blockade was imposed in response to the coup, the demands of Burundi's neighbours go wider. They are hoping, among other things, to put pressure

four months. Up to 3,000 were murdered in the attacks. The report says Hutu rebels were also responsible for murders over the same period, but concludes that "the greatest number were killed by elements of the Burundian army", in reprisal for attacks on the civilian population.

Desert troops 'alert for terrorist attack'

WESTERN forces in Saudi Arabia were on alert for an imminent terror attack yesterday following a sudden increase in Gulf tensions over the bombing of a United States air force barracks in the kingdom in June. US, French and British troops stationed at Saudi military installations adopted identical top-level security measures. The US State Department, through the US defence secretary, William Perry, separately, the US warned Kuwait of security threats from Iraq and "other countries in the region", the Gulf state's foreign minister said. American troops in Saudi Arabia have been bombed twice in seven months. A fuel-truck bomb killed 18 US army personnel at a housing complex near Dhahran in June. Five Americans and two Saudis were killed by a car bomb in Riyadh last November. On Friday, Mr Perry singled out Iran as "certainly the leading candidate for international terrorism directed against the United States", and said that Washington would take strong action against any country that was involved in the Saudi bombings. He would not say what that action would be. Yemen said yesterday it was hunting a Yemeni suspected of helping four Saudis who confessed to the Riyadh car-bombing from Saudi Arabia before the blast. An interior ministry official said the fugitive fled to Yemen in the Gulf region while 15,000 US sailors and marines in dozens of ships, including an aircraft carrier battle group, were involved in a military exercise to test America's ability to set up operations in the region quickly. *Reuters, Dubai.*

Alarm over felled forests

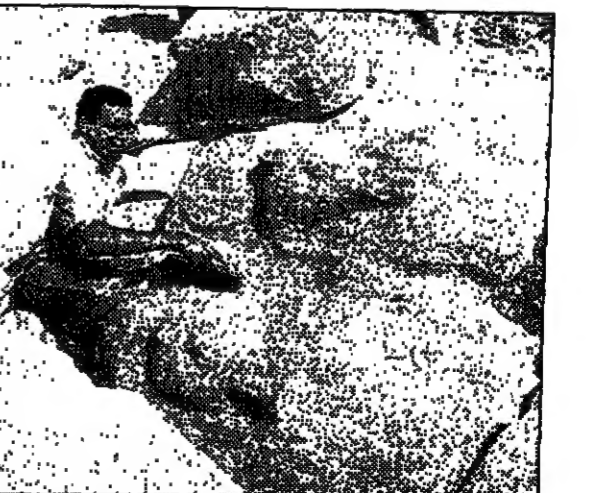
POOR farmers in the Third World practising slash-and-burn agriculture could destroy half the remaining forest cover, and logging threatens the rest, an international agricultural research organisation warned yesterday. Soaring numbers of poor farmers are major contributors to the loss of 38 million acres of tropical forests every year, a report by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, which is supported by four United Nations affiliates, said. The world's tropical forests have been reduced to about 5 billion acres, from 5.5 billion in 1980, according to UN figures. "A hundred years ago, slash-and-burn was a very well adjusted system," said Ismail Serageldin, the Egyptian scientist who chairs the consultative group. "You had a very small population against a very large forest cover... If you farm two hectares (5 acres) and there are 14 hectares of fallow, it's an OK system. But with the huge demographic explosion that has happened, there is no solution to this without solving the poverty problem." The solution was for farmers to learn more intensive cultivation techniques and grow new crops, in particular trees with multiple uses which also reforest the land with nutrients. Governments must better regulate land use and allow some food prices to rise to the benefit of farmers. But Kenya's leading environmentalist, Wangari Maathai, said: "Poor people are the victims, not the cause [of the problem]. In Kenya, we are fighting to protect the remaining indigenous forests from some of the richest people in the country." — *New York Times, United Nations.*

Black anger at police raid

A RAID by helmeted police officers in riot gear and riding in an armoured personnel carrier with mounted automatic guns has provoked a formal protest from a black community in the South Central part of Los Angeles. A house which the police believed held a suspected murderer was occupied only by women and children: the man's mother, a boy aged 13, a girl aged 16, an infant and a neighbour, Aletha Dyer, aged 20. The suspect, Demetrius Franklin, aged 20, surrendered when he heard of the raid and denies any crime. During the raid last month — reported only in the latest edition of a black weekly, the Los Angeles Sentinel — police officers manhandled the teenage girl while trying to handcuff her, witnesses said. Ms Dyer accused them of rudeness and unwarranted force. More seriously, the complaint alleges that the officers did not produce a search warrant until after the raid, and Mr Franklin's name was not on it. A police spokesman said: "The man we were looking for had a history of firearms, was a known gang member and did commit a brutal murder. Our intention was to prevent armed confrontation." — *Christopher Reed, Los Angeles.*

Sri Lanka troops pound rebels

SRI LANKAN troops backed by tanks and air support renewed their thrust against Tamil Tiger rebels in the north yesterday as the authorities braced themselves for a flood of refugees fleeing the fighting, military and aid officials said. Air force bombers and helicopter gunships pounded rebel positions as troops resumed their advance at dawn from northern Paranthan towards rebel-held Kilinochchi, 180 miles north of Colombo, after a week-long lull, a military spokesman said. The rebels accused the troops of indiscriminate shelling of Kilinochchi, saying nearly 200,000 civilians had fled the town. Aid officials said they were preparing 35 schools in and near the town of Vavuniya, 44 miles south of Kilinochchi, to accommodate the anticipated influx of refugees. — *Reuters, Colombo.*



AN archaeologist dusts off a twin-headed statue, believed to be of the great pharaoh Ramesses II, discovered last week near the Giza pyramids in Egypt. The unfinished 11ft granite statue shows the king, who ruled in the 13th century BC, in human form and as the sun god Re-Harakhti

Town rejects nuclear plant

IN Japan's first referendum, a coastal farming town returned a resounding No yesterday to a plan to build a nuclear power plant. The election commission of Maki, about 160 miles north-west of Tokyo, said the final tally was 12,478 against and 7,904 in favour, in a turnout of 83.3 per cent of eligible voters. The referendum stemmed from Tohoku Electric Power Co's 1989 proposal to build a \$25,000-kilowatt nuclear plant at Maki. The plan has divided the community ever since. While the result is not legally binding, the town's mayor had promised to block the sale of council property to the company if residents voted No. The power firm has vowed to go ahead, saying it already has 96 per cent of the land it needs. — *Reuters, Maki.*

"My taste for dead bodies," says Vathek's usually lingerie-clad mother, "and everything like mummy, is decided".



A coca farmer waving the Colombian flag faces troops at the airstrip of Puerto Asis in Putumayo province on the border with Ecuador. On Friday, two people were killed and at least 15 injured by security forces when several thousand farmers tried to march on the airport to protest at the government's American-backed programme to eradicate drug crops. The town, which has been taken over by an estimated 15,000 farmers, has become a focal point for demonstrations

Rebel love-in ends in mud and muddle

3,000 global guests have left Mexico's Zapatistas giddy, Michael McCaughan writes

REALITY was the name of the village, but the thousands of guests from around the world who concluded a conference organised by indigenous rebels in south-east Mexico at the weekend left with a dream — to establish an intercontinental network of resistance to struggle for a "new world". Greens, gays, anarchists, artists, intellectuals, Indians, repentant Stalinists and ex-guerrilla fighters from 43 countries descended on Chiapas, demonstrating the extraordinary magnetism of the Zapatista rebel movement, which fought a 30-month war by mainly non-violent means, principally the media. The logistics of the event would have scared off the bravest of rock promoters: food, toilets, transport and sleeping quarters for 3,000 guests had to be transported by 2,000 Zapatista volunteers to five different locations during the rainy season. At the entrance to each of the sites, termed *Aguaclaras* after the rebel conference during the first Mexican revolution, the rules of engagement were written in black and red. Alcohol and drugs strictly forbidden and no skinny-dipping. The size of the event ruled out in-depth discussion among the participants from Iran, Cuba, Zaire, Turkey, Australia, France, the United States and Japan, among other countries. They agreed on who the enemy was, but found difficulty in formulating a practical response. The battle strategies varied wildly — one Basque wanted to set up a special day when

Harassed Megawati stands fast

JAKARTA will tense itself for possible demonstrations today when lawyers for the ousted Indonesian opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri go to the city police headquarters. Megawati has been summoned for questioning on riots in the capital, but has decided to leave it to her lawyers to sort out what they say are flaws in the summons. Staying away will also give her advisers time to try to work out the authorities' intentions. Nine days after the police stormed the office of her Indonesian Democratic Party, sparking off the violence, troops have restored order but not calm to the capital, where Megawati faces pressure from the government to give up her struggle to keep the party leadership. Megawati shows no sign of weakening. "What I am trying to do is consolidate the party throughout Indonesia," she says. The campaign to stop her, she warns, is likely to add to the resentment that exploded on July 27 into the worst riots for more than 30 years. The police called Megawati for questioning as "a witness in the criminal case of intentionally spreading hatred against the president". A similarly worded summons to the dissident politician Sri Bintang Pamungkas led to a 34-month jail sentence for insulting the president, which is still under appeal. The police questioning will probably focus on speeches made at her party headquarters before the security forces stormed it. Megawati says that the source of the riots was the "unconstitutional" PDI congress arranged by the military in June. Military commanders say that her faction of the PDI has links to neo-communist groups. Megawati denies any subversive intent, dismisses suggestions that she may have links to former communists, and says she hardly knows anything about the tiny People's Democratic Party, which military identify as Indonesia's new communist peril.

Singapore helped Ethiopia banks on history

SINGAPORE'S secret weapon to lure foreign investors during the 1960s has finally been revealed: well-kept trees and manicured gardens. Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father and former prime minister of modern Singapore, told the Straits Times in a recent interview that he personally directed a campaign to turn the swampy mosquito-infested island into a series of carefully nurtured lawns and flower beds. He added that it was "a certain subtle way" of convincing potential investors that the country was efficient, even though it was deep in poverty. "To maintain a garden is a daily effort and if you can maintain it, it means you are capable of punctuality and systematic work." The greenery must have worked its charm, because foreign investment became the engine of economic growth and prosperity that turned the resourceless island into Asia's wealthiest country after Japan. Foreign direct equity investment amounted to \$34.8 billion by the end of last year. Investors rate it highly for political stability, ease of doing business and relative absence of corruption. In the sixties, just after Singapore became independent, visitors leaving the old Paya Lebar airport had to pass through shanty towns. "We didn't try to hide the buildings, because that would only have raised their suspicion," Mr Lee said. Instead, the area was spruced up with trees. Today, visitors land at the new Changi airport. The ride to the city takes about 20 minutes along roads flanked by palm trees, manicured grassy knolls and flowering plants. The government pays as much attention to the rest of the city. It organises regular "clean and green" campaigns and public housing tenants compete to win the prize for the best-maintained estate. Alice Martin in Addis Ababa

Ethiopia banks on history

THE Bank of Abyssinia was one of Africa's oldest banks, but it closed with the Italian invasion of Ethiopia under Mussolini in 1941. Today the bank reopens for business in a bright, white office block on Addis Ababa's main Bole Road. Tkalign Gedamu, the bank's chief executive officer, says: "It was the first private bank in the country, and that is why we have chosen to open with the same name." The bank was founded in 1906 by Emperor Menelik, along with the country's first hospital and printing press. It was financed by the Franco-Ethiopian railway from Djibouti, 430 miles inland to the new capital at Addis Ababa. At first, the bank's backers were British, through the National Bank of Egypt. When the Italians came, they liquidated the bank, which had been nationalised four years earlier. Menasse Lemana, a former bank employee who became finance minister after Emperor Haile Selassie's return to power in 1941, says: "People lost their holdings... Some succeeded in changing their currency for lira, but the majority lost everything." He believes today's Bank of Abyssinia is "totally different". It joins four other Ethiopian banks — two state and two private. "The old bank had a monopoly. This one is going to be an ordinary commercial bank, competing and fighting its way up." According to Mr Gedamu, the bank's 131 shareholders are "from all walks of life". But for some, the climate for private banks is still unfavourable. After decades of state control, bureaucracy and ever-changing rules hamper activity. Less than 5 per cent of the population have a bank account, and most transactions are in cash. "The middle-class Ethiopian is far away from banking activities," says Tamrat Bekele, a businessman and publisher. "Banks have to put their resources together to inform the public of banking services. Using a cheque is not customary. Even government offices require cash."

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Mostar's menace
Tackling Tudjman's blackmail

A BOSNIAN CRISIS has once again put Western countries on the spot. The US president has been humiliated because of a powerful regional leader...

The same pattern has been followed as in so many confrontations with the Bosnian Serbs and their backdoor boss President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

As previously, it may still be possible to finesse some sort of deal at the thirteenth instead of the eleventh hour...

Splits among the Bosnian Croats, between the mayor of West Mostar Mijo Brajkovic and the local party leader Jadranko Topic...

Not so hot in Atlanta
But we all lose some of them sometime

NOT EVEN THE final dawn in Atlanta brought any relief for our long-suffering nation. In the end there was no eleventh hour golden turn-up for the Olympic record books...

But the line between perceived triumph and perceived disaster is much thinner than the current national mood of unredeemed Olympic failure would imply.

Barcelona was a hard act to follow. Linford Christie astonished us all with the finest ten seconds of his lifetime, transforming a great career into a superb one.

Just suppose that Jonathan Edwards had triple-jumped another few centimetres, or Steve Backley propelled his javelin the length of a further stride.

The truth is that these things come and go, for one nation and then another. Atlanta has been formidable for France, but all the French government grants, schools of excellence, sponsorship and the rest haven't been enough to bring Gallic triumphs in the past...



Letters to the Editor

First among Labour's equals?

GORDON Brown (in the real world, August 2) goes to great pains to distinguish "equality of outcome" as advocated by Roy Hattersley...

I cannot speak for Mr Hattersley, but for an old-fashioned socialist like myself these two objectives are not only compatible, but also mutually reinforcing.

of the population. Surely this is what a "stakeholder society" is supposed to remedy?
Walter Cairns
Broomhurst Hall,
836 Wilmslow Road,
Manchester M20 8RP.

GORDON Brown is confused or disingenuous. Equality of outcome is not about imposing the same level of attainment on everyone...

The limitations of the concept of equality of opportunity have long been recognised. Beneath its intuitive appeal, its vision is empty and chimerical.

much equality there. Furthermore, unless the reward system provides sufficient prizes of equal worth for all those of equal talent and disposition...

If as Brown says, "we are to bridge the gap between what people are and what they have it in themselves to become", then the issues which these observations raise have to be addressed.

I WROTE (Balance of power, July 25) that if Gordon Brown insisted in attacking "equality of outcomes" it was important for him to find out what it is.

Gordon has become hypnotised by a single word. A socialist government, said R.H. Tawney (as quoted on July 25), should consider

whether the outcome of its policies produced more or less equality. Then, whenever possible, it should choose that option which, by making society more equal, actually reduces the grab uniformity that deprivation invariably creates.

Illustrating that principle, I referred to an unemployed man from my constituency in his mid-forties, with a sick wife, two children and a house from which the electricity had been cut off.

IT WAS good to see Gordon Brown proclaiming solidarity as one of the trinity of socialist values. Can we now look forward to a public declaration of solidarity with the tube, rail and postal workers?

John Gorman,
Galley Wood House,
Almes Green, Waltham Abbey,
Essex EN9 2BJ.

Within boundaries, breaking up is the right thing to do in Brent

YOUR leader is right to highlight the advantages of reverting to former "small borough" boundaries in London, and abandoning the 1968 creation of "Brent" (Brent into Willesden won't go, August 2). There is a great popular yearning for the more practical, traditional civic identities.

And it would be a particular advantage of Labour's planned Greater London Strategic Authority (GLSA) that, by creating two-tier city-wide government, it would make it easier to recognise at the lower-tier the realities of local allegiance and identity.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: You're unlikely to meet any one on Malabar, the craggy fell overlooking lovely Crummock Water; I've never seen anyone up there. So if you want to enjoy, on your own, a slightly unusual fell walk...

then concentrate on the local functions of urban management and regeneration.

Cities need two-tier government. Single-tier government in London has been an acknowledged failure. The Labour GLSA would not recreate the GLC (which was not in any event a true upper tier); the new all-London council would be a genuine upper-tier senior authority.

BREAK up Brent? It simply doesn't make sense to rename the London Borough of Neasden. For a forward looking and empirically correct sub-title, "we're on the road to Wembley" would do nicely.

Hello, Mr Chips

ANTHEA Millet is right to be concerned about the declining number of male teachers in state primary schools (Chips are down for Mr Chips, July 31). Boys and girls both need appropriate role models.

My research in this area covers approximately 1,700 primary teachers in nearly 200 schools. Of the teachers 14 per cent are male, 86 per cent are female, yet 44 per cent of the schools have male head teachers.

Such information could well be used to enhance male recruitment to primary teaching as their career prospects are clearly good, but it would not address fundamental equality issues...



these male teachers occupy high status positions and receive a higher salary for doing so, while the same can be said of only 39 per cent of the female teachers.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk.

Herbal healing

TRUST that no one will be encouraged to rush down to a chippy to pick St John's Wort (Down in the meadow you might cure the blues, August 2). It is a poisonous plant and can cause severe skin irritation.

DO NOT see a problem over the abolition of handbags (Letters, August 3). Legislation allows ownership to be withheld from known vandals.

David Thomas,
110 Rylands Street,
Hereford HR4 6LD.

Pouring cold water with the meter running

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

THE PUBLIC Services Committee of the House of Commons has edged Britain another step towards honest and open government by insisting that ministers must "take special care to provide information that is full and accurate..."

The debate to which I draw the Committee's attention was about water metering - a prosaic subject but one which, as we shall see, is vital to the welfare of some low income families.

would call Mr Gummer's shadow were not twice as substantial. He had barely begun when the Secretary of State popped up to interrupt him. Always the minister spoke in the manner of a bishop who has just dropped a thurible on his toe.

But read what amounts to the small print. Buried in a speech which lasted for more than an hour, Mr Gummer first enthused about private water companies' freedom to make their own decisions and then dealt with how they respond to that part of the privatisation act which allowed them to force water meters on their customers.

choice. To meter or not to meter. That is a question that might have two answers - at least according to the Secretary of State for the Environment. Unfortunately the choice lies not with the consumer, but with the water companies which can, and do, impose on those metering their reluctant customers.

My family (which consists of six people) was and still is living on income support and as a result is finding it extremely difficult to keep up a reasonable standard of hygiene. We have to watch every drop of water that we use. At the moment we are having to choose between having a bath, washing the dishes and flushing the toilet. I have two children who suffer from severe eczema and need daily baths and frequent changes of bed clothes. So it is almost impossible to save water.

Before privatisation the idea that artesian wells might be needed in Birmingham would have been absurd

wrote to the company asking them to release her from the rigour of a water meter. Jane Hastings, Customer Accounting Manager (Metropolitan Daily) replied. She began with a little water industry history. "It was decided that all new supplies, where the water supply was connected on or after April 1989 should

be metered. As Mrs Selwyn was connected (in) September 1989 her supply was metered and will remain metered". It seems to me that Ms Hastings and Mr Gummer ought to get together.

We will pass lightly over the peremptory style of Ms Hastings' prose - pausing only to observe that the emphatic "will" appears a second time in her letter. It is more than her choice of words which demonstrates Severn Trent's insensitivity to the problem of low income families. Ms Hastings - intending to be helpful, I am sure - suggested that the Department of Social Security might pay Mrs Selwyn's water bill direct and deduct the appropriate amount from her Giro cheque before she received it. The alternative suggestion was "payment on a weekly basis". However "the charges will remain the same". The basic fact of Mrs Selwyn's dilemma has escaped Ms Hastings. The water which the family needs costs more than it can afford however the bills are arranged.

theory, families which find electricity too expensive can heat their homes with gas and travellers who cannot afford train fares are free to take the bus. But there is no alternative to water and water has a single supplier. It is also, after the air we breathe, the basic necessity of life. Perhaps I am turning sentimental, but it seems to me that a civilised society should not deprive even one of its members of what we have taken for granted since the Victorian publication of Dr Chadwick's cholera maps. We give money to War on Want to pay for artesian wells in Africa. The idea that they might be needed in darkest Birmingham would have been regarded as absurd 10 years ago. That was before privatisation.

Severn Trent's defence is that they were set up as a commercial undertaking not a charitable organisation. And they are right. There is only one answer to Mrs Selwyn's immediate dilemma. We need to turn Mr Gummer's fantasy into reality. No compulsory metering. For that to happen the water companies have to come back into public ownership.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Paris Diary

Alex Duval Smith

GINGERLY placing a book on the counter, the young American woman asked: "C'est combien?" (How much?) In the time it took the cashier to say "55 francs", the customer had summoned up a rush of delectable "How much is that in dollars?"

This being Shakespeare & Company, she got away with being given a calculator rather than a tirade. The bookshop trades on its links with the Lost Generation — the American authors who, in the 1920s, escaped to Paris, away from intellectual and alcoholic prohibition.

After the Olympic Games and the TWA 800 explosion, the Franco-American relationship is at a low ebb. At the best of times it is not great. The French are disgusted by protestant mercantilism and know they provided a haven for Hemingway, F Scott Fitzgerald and Henry Miller. As far back as 1875, Henry James described the American quarter on the Right Bank.

About one kilometre square running from the Rue de Rivoli... in which the most sacred point is Boulevard des Capucines by the Grand Hotel. The area still has Harry's Bar, the head office of American Express and Brentano's bookshop.

When the Americans liberated Paris — let's not be churlish — they brought tokens which endured: Lucky Strike cigarettes, Ray Ban sunglasses and "le happy hour". Not to mention American-English spelling, and the apostrophe, which the French always put in the wrong place.

In the last few weeks, realities have tarnished the allure of Americana and affection for the US. "What's the cover story on L'Express this week. Between the lines, the message is clear: who cares about the Atlanta bomb (2 dead, many stories) when 48 French people died aboard TWA 800? The families of the French victims were reportedly sidelined during the English-speaking salvage operation and their quiet grieving was disturbed by the teddies and heart-shaped wreaths placed on Long Island beach by Americans.

There was further anti-American fuel pumped in through reports from Atlanta. The "safest" games in history were shattered by a small bomb in a pipe. Athletes' names were displayed on a grindingly-slow computer. Young French people had been enticed to Atlanta to work for slave wages on side-shows. And all the buses were breaking down.

In the midst of this adversity, France triumphed, enjoying its best Olympics (36 medals, of which 15 have been gold) since before the second world war. President Chirac talked of the "historic results of a victorious French team which gives the world a fine image of our nation". But the arrogant Americans still had to be better: Marie-Josée Fécot won the women's 200 metre and 400 metre finals but Michael Johnson, with USA embassies in his plaids, French commentators had a field day with all these things, totally disregarding the fact that US families involved in the TWA 800 explosion were displaced also at the way they were treated. Let's face it: the perceived ineffectiveness of the FBI — founded by a descendant of Napoleon Bonaparte — could have something to do with the restrictions on American legislation; the French secret services have unrestricted powers to bug, tap and harass. And Johnson set a world record in the most high-profile event of the Games; Fécot did not. It's enough to make you reach for the Zipzoo and light a Lucky Strike.

A free Derry without any more city walls

Commentary

Fintan O'Toole

IN JANUARY 1943, the editor of the BBC's Chinese Service, looking for a signature tune, hit on the idea that the old song Lilliburlero might be just the ticket. It sounded so well that, by the end of the year, it was adopted for English-language transmissions as well.

It is not surprising that Lilliburlero should sound to Chinese ears like nothing more than a good tune, but there must be something poignant, especially to Protestants in Northern Ireland, in the idea that right-thinking people in the Home Counties might associate it with detached and cosmopolitan civility. For the tune has words, and they hark back to 1688 and the Siege of Derry, an event that is still helping

to shape Irish history. If you know any Irish, the song's refrain "Lilliburlero bullen a la" — "the meaningless nonsense that most English people imagine it to be. It is a brilliant Protestant subversion of a Gaelic catch-cry. An ille ba leir e, ba linne an la — the lily (symbol of Orangeism) prevailed; the day was ours. For the song is a savage satire on Irish Catholics, a product of the political and sectarian struggles of the late 17th century.

Its conversion into a signature tune for the World Service marks the distance between the Protestants of Northern Ireland, still insisting on the political identity that was forged in those old struggles, and the contemporary Britain to which they offer allegiance. The process by which historic passions become abstract and harmless — and songs, like Lilliburlero become no more than hummable tunes — hasn't yet happened in Northern Ireland.

Today in Derry, the Apprentice Boys, named after the 13 young men who closed the gates of the city against the armies of King James II in 1688, will meet with the residents of the Catholic Bogside area to try to prevent a riot next Saturday. Last year, there was serious violence when the Apprentice Boys staged their traditional

march around the city walls. This year, after the ending of the IRA ceasefire and the sectarian confrontations sparked by last month's Drumcree stand-off, everyone knows that a repeat performance could have murderous consequences. In the next few days, the ability of two communities to deal with the past will have a crucial bearing on their future.

The march around the walls is doomed, almost by the lie of the land, to contain a symbolic declaration of hegemony. The Protestants who are walking the battlements literally look down on the Catholics below. And in the past this implication of superiority has been explicit. The Boys, as well as singing anti-Catholic songs, also had the endorsing habit of contemptuously throwing pennies down into the Bogside.

In 1972, the Sunday Times Insight team described the march as "an annual political experiment of the most empirical kind. If the Catholics take the insult lying down, all is well. If they do not, then it is necessary to make them lie down."

But Derry has been transformed since 1980, and so has the meaning of the old triumphalist gestures. It was striking that most of the property damaged in the recent riots in the city was owned by the increasingly prosperous

Catholic middle-class that now dominates Derry. The balance of power has shifted irreversibly on to the Catholic side, a point made most forcibly last week when the SDLP and Sinn Féin majority on the city council voted to deprive the Unionist mayor Richard Dallas of the trappings of office because of his part in the disturbances during the stand-off at Drumcree.

It is now the Catholics who have the responsibility that comes with power — the duty to be generous to the needs of the Protestant minority. If the Apprentice Boys have to mark their identity, can they be expressed without bigotry, they also have to be shown that Protestant fears of cultural annihilation at the hands of a Catholic majority are groundless.

It is easy, in contemplating this double task, to slip into clichés about the grip of the past on the present and to assume with fatalistic resignation that what is happening is an endless and inevitable process of history repeating itself. This is especially the case because riots sparked by the same march led in 1980 to the fateful decision to send British troops into Northern Ireland.

The run-up to the 1980 riots now seems eerily familiar: John Hume and the residents

of the Bogside appealing for the march to be banned, the authorities asking the Apprentice Boys to re-route their parade, and then, faced with a blank refusal, deciding to let it go ahead — an entirely predictable disaster being allowed to unfold.

But this idea that the present is the prisoner of the past misunderstands history itself. The Apprentice Boys Clubs were founded, not in 1689, but in the 1820s, in order to revive the celebrations of the siege which had lapsed through lack of interest. The hundredth anniversary of the siege had been marked in Derry by Protestants and Catholics celebrating together. And even on the three hundredth anniversary of the lifting of the siege, in 1989, when the Troubles were still in full swing, Derry managed to stage a brilliant non-sectarian commemoration, with a pageant on the walls, the premiere of Shaun Davey's Relief of Derry symphony, and a fireworks display on the river.

Both sides should remember when they sit down to talk today what the original 13 boys actually did when they shut the gates of the city against the forces of a stupid and reactionary king. They showed that real history is made by people who refuse to accept the inevitable, who stand against the tide of events and deflect its course.

Derry has the opportunity now, not to repeat history, but to make it. If a compromise can be reached, what happens on the walls of Derry next Saturday may again help to shape the destiny of the whole island, has the same march led in 1980 to the fateful decision to send British troops into Northern Ireland, just a good tune.

Fintan O'Toole is a columnist with The Irish Times

What the electorate are telling the pollsters is that, in an economic culture of pervasive insecurity, trade unions have a vital role. They are valuable intermediary institutions standing between wage-earners and the uncertainties and potential inequity of the free market. Protecting employees from the worst insecurities of the free market was the original rationale of trade unionism. The unions' role as a defence against insecurity accounted for their strong growth in the 1890s, a period not unlike our own in its economic and social inequalities and unregulated labour market. Now, as then, trade unions are indispensable defenders of elementary economic rights for millions of people. They are not less, but more important, now that we live in a largely deregulated global free market.

This does not mean that the unions can — or should — hope to return to the post-

tion they occupied in Britain in the seventies. In European countries such as France and Germany, which have not been subject to a long period of neo-liberal orthodoxy, membership of trade unions has nevertheless fallen steeply. Even in Britain, the decline in union membership since the late seventies from over half the workforce to around a third, has been as much from developments in technology, production and world trade as from policies such as privatisation and the outlawing of closed shops.

THE shrinkage of mass manufacturing and the growth of leaner modes of production, together with the practices of outsourcing and international transfer of jobs that are made possible by new technologies, are likely to reduce the leverage of trade unions over employers. It is this new economic environment of advancing globalisation, even more than the reforms of the eighties, that rules out any return to the old model of mass manufacturing.

If trade unions are to protect the economic security of their members in an age of rapid technological change and enhanced global competition, they will need to do more than defend existing jobs. In collaboration with employers and government, they will need to support a sustained effort to reskill the workforce. A strategy of job preservation cannot ensure steady employment for long when new technologies are daily rendering existing skills redundant.

In present conditions, reskilling must be recurrent and almost continuous. The adversarial industrial culture of Thatcherite capitalism, in which the unions are constantly put on a defensive, has not helped them view firms as enterprises in whose efficiency they have a real stake. Yet the future for the unions cannot be in resistance to change. It must be in enabling their members to cope with it.

Already, unions are coming increasingly to resemble the mutual societies of the past, providing financial services of ever returning to secure employment, even your marriage — is, in present circumstances, entirely reasonable. This is not an economic environment in which anti-union sentiment can be relied on by the Tories as a source of electoral support for another clutch of New Right policies.

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The world not about us on the television



Ros Coward

REMEMBER the Children's village of Turville and the furore about the proposal to use its old school for "holidays for inner-city kids"? If nothing else, that furore gave a sudden insight into how London media folk really value the countryside. Newsnight might render the countryside and the environment almost invisible, but Jeremy Paxman, who was backing the proposal, obviously knows a rural idyll when he sees one.

Currently, the environment could not sink much lower in television's priorities. Whereas the city with its obscure minority interests, its heterogeneity, its sexual transgressions and its crimes might be considered the source of "sexy" television, the politics of the environment are considered passé. In future, glimpses of the countryside may be confined to freak-show programmes like Takeover TV which opened with an "amusing" sequence of someone headbutting a cow.

Of course, television seems with wildlife programmes. But wildlife and the environment are not the same. Wildlife programmes are about the secret lives of attractive species; they command large budgets and support. But environmental programmes are more difficult. They examine people's interaction with the environment, the problems of conservation and the cost of our lifestyles to other species and peoples.

Such programmes have become so uncommon that this year's Wildscreen festival has very few British programmes shortlisted for its conservation category. The last edition of the QED series showed what could be done. It dealt with the conservation of seahorses in an uneasy partnership between scientist and local peoples. Not that you would have guessed this from the trailer, which sold it as a standard sex-life of strange species film.

Wildscreen's judges note that "comparatively few broadcasters are producing strong programmes on difficult environmental issues, presumably because they are difficult to place". Environmentalists had already spotted this change. Unlike opera buffis, they have no specialist commissioning editor. Nor are there any flagship documentary series on the environment. Channel 4 used to have Fragile Earth. But that has been replaced by Encounter, an exploration series. Its commissioning editor says "we

have modernised, like Tony Blair... there's a limit to the number of times you can show all the polluted rivers. We've been there and done that. It's time to move on." Boredom, almost antipathy, pervades TV's senior management when the environment is on the agenda. Attempts in the BBC to set up a watchdog committee on the environment were rebuffed. At last year's BBC briefing for programme-makers, Michael Jackson said environmental programmes were a turn-off because of doom and gloom. Channel 4's head of programmes says public interest in the environment is waning.

Charles Secret, Director of Friends of the Earth, says that this lack of interest doesn't reflect what the public wants, more "the narrow range of interest and experience of a particular coterie who run broadcasting". Public concern about environmental issues is at a high level. Recent MORI polls show two-thirds of the population concerned that British companies are not sufficiently attentive to environment, and 94 per cent worried about air pollution. These levels of concern are found over many issues and across all socio-economic groups and age groups.

Normally, television would pounce on such findings as valuable evidence of a potential audience. But not when it comes to the environment. The conviction that environmentalists are synonymous with doom-merchants remains, even though that impression was formed by the commissioning policy in the late eighties. Executives remain convinced that wildlife audiences are escapist with tastes for stunning shots, conservationists are dour ideologues with grainy production values. But the QED programme proved the bounds are imaginary. Love of wild species often underlies the interest many develop in ecology and conservation.

Television seems suited to cater for this unusual level of democratic interest in a science. Of the media, only the tabloids consider the environment as dull as does TV. The radio has several programmes dedicated to the environment. Today and The World At One regularly cover environmental issues as hard news, not just when a disaster occurs. Broadcasters still take environmental issues seriously as news (but not features), although recently the sections have been squeezed.

If ever proof were needed that television is taking its agenda from the tabloids, it is the shared neglect of the environment. The tabloids have an excuse. They only exist to enrich their owners. But the BBC and Channel 4 still have a public service remit with a responsibility for airing issues, educating, informing and clarifying. Perhaps the executives should consider this as they drive to their rural retreats.



Raise the banner

John Gray argues that trade unions, again under attack, are needed more than ever in their role as defenders against insecurity

ARE trade unions obsolete? Last week's proposals by Ian Lang, Prime Minister, to amend the Board of Trade, are an authentic embodiment of the economic philosophy of the new Right, in which unions are regarded as anachronistic impediments to the efficiency of the labour market.

Lang has proposed ending that long-standing immunity from claims for damages which is granted to unions engaged in lawful public sector strikes. This immunity has been a fixed point in the legal framework of British industrial relations ever since the Trades Disputes Act of 1906 overturned the House of Lords decision in 1901 to allow the Taff Vale Railway Company to sue the railwaymen's union for damages caused through strikes. If they are ever exacted, Lang's proposals will return us to the era of the Taff Vale judgment. Unions such as Aslef and RMT, which are involved in the current rail dispute, will be liable for potentially colossal damages, and subject to sequestration of their assets if they do not, or cannot, pay. In another twist in the New Right ratchet effect, the right to strike will have been effectively removed from five million public sector workers. Britain will enter the new

millennium with a *fin-de-siècle* Victorian labour market. In part, these proposals are merely pre-election gambits, aimed at Tony Blair. They apply the now familiar Tory strategy of confronting the Labour leader with policies that are designed to force him to choose between losing electoral support and risking conflict within his party. The current rash of strikes is undoubtedly a factor favouring public support for compromise with the European Union's directive a maximum 48-hour working week. The electorate plainly does not believe that the balance of power in society has tilted too far in the direction of the unions, if anything, it believes the opposite.

The Tories have not understood that the climate of economic insecurity, in conjunction with the deep

John Gray argues that trade unions, again under attack, are needed more than ever in their role as defenders against insecurity

risk losing everything — your house, your prospects of ever returning to secure employment, even your marriage — is, in present circumstances, entirely reasonable. This is not an economic environment in which anti-union sentiment can be relied on by the Tories as a source of electoral support for another clutch of New Right policies.

What the electorate are telling the pollsters is that, in an economic culture of pervasive insecurity, trade unions have a vital role. They are valuable intermediary institutions standing between wage-earners and the uncertainties and potential inequity of the free market. Protecting employees from the worst insecurities of the free market was the original rationale of trade unionism. The unions' role as a defence against insecurity accounted for their strong growth in the 1890s, a period not unlike our own in its economic and social inequalities and unregulated labour market. Now, as then, trade unions are indispensable defenders of elementary economic rights for millions of people. They are not less, but more important, now that we live in a largely deregulated global free market.

This does not mean that the unions can — or should — hope to return to the post-

Advertisement for Pilot pens: "You don't have to use our pens - you could always rough it". Includes image of a Pilot pen and text: "The Pilot V5 and V7 pure liquid ink Rollerball Pens offer you a genuine smooth writing experience. Pilots innovative ink controller delivers an exceptionally smooth writing feel for the whole life of the pen. The V5 has an extra fine point and writes a 0.3mm line width, the V7 has a fine point and writes a 0.5mm line width. Look out for Special promotion offers. Available from all Leading Stationers and Office Suppliers. PILOT PURE LIQUID INK RANGE 24 CARAT SMOOTHNESS."

10 OBITUARIES

Geoff Hamilton

Garden of his delights

ON FRIDAY evenings, when the thought of weekend weeding loomed, it was the calm, efficient figure of Geoff Hamilton...



Nature nurture... Hamilton never tried to be fashionable in his dress, either preferring the image of a countryman to townie

In his dress, either preferring the image of a countryman to townie. He was also a committed socialist and environmentalist...

Michael Fenn

On the waterfront

MICHAEL "Mickey" Fenn, who has died of a heart attack aged 58, was a dockworker...

The dockers picked Midland, described by Prime Minister Edward Heath as 'a pathetic little firm'...

Letters

Jane Wright writes: When I met Jessica Milford (obituary, July 23) at 8pm on the morning after she had flown in from California, she welcomed me as if there was no one she would rather see than a journalist asking questions...

Simone Crawley writes: The life story of "Mad Mitch" (obituary, July 24) demonstrates that it is possible to turn swords into ploughshares, to convert armament factories to agricultural implement workshops...

Inor Morgan writes: Len Creed (obituary, July 24) was famous for recruiting Viv Richards to English cricket. But his experience as a book-maker was formidable. Once, I asked him: "So what is the system for winning money on the horses?" His reply should be engraved over the door of every bookie: "There is no system."

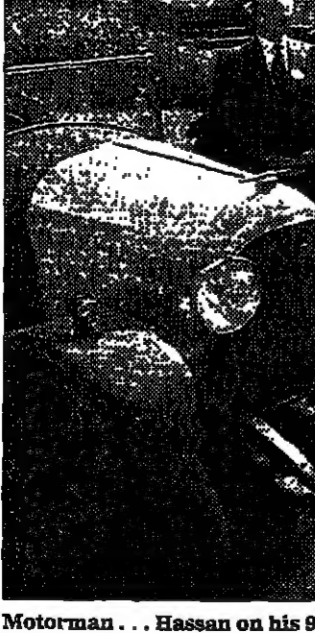
Walter Hassan

The roar of the Jaguar

WALTER Hassan, who has died aged 91, was one of this country's most gifted designers of high-performance engines and a vital link in the Jaguar story.

In 1920, as a 15-year-old fresh from Hackney Technical Institute, he was taken on as a mechanic by Bentley, which had just moved into its first factory by the Welsh Harp reservoir in north-west London.

on: in 1925, he prepared a Le Mans 3-litre Bentley for a 24-hour record attempt on the banked Montlhéry circuit south of Paris, where it averaged over 95mph without problems.



Motorman... Hassan on his 90th birthday with fellow designers and veteran cars

W O Bentley described Hassan as "very young, very keen and very ambitious", though that ambition nearly cost him his life when Bentley returned to Montlhéry in 1926 with the single-seater Bentley "Slug" to attempt the first 100mph-plus, 24-hour record.

he requested that a cordyl-phyllum japonica be planted on his grave. "It is a lovely honey colour and will last about 60 years and then die. And that's all right," he told an interviewer.

Isobel Montgomery

'I still can't get over that excitement when you look over the seedlings you planted out and wonder if they are going to come through - and they do'

Gay Search writes: It was Geoff who first got me involved in gardening on television. Although he came over as straightforward, behind the scenes he was a very complex man.

Alan Trottermarsh adds: Working in television, and achieving success, can go to people's head, not so with Geoff Hamilton. Yet behind easy presentation and straightforward approach was a great deal of hard graft.

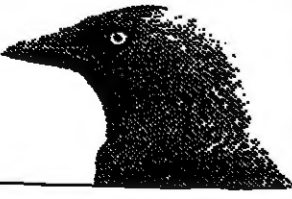
Geoff Hamilton, gardener and journalist, born August 12, 1938; died August 4, 1996

can engine for the postwar Jaguar range. With the return of peace, SS became Jaguar Cars, and Hassan brought in an old Brooklands friend, "Lofty" England, as service engineer. England eventually succeeded Sir William Lyons as Jaguar's chief executive.

HASSAN next joined Coventry Climax as chief engineer, and was instrumental in developing the FW ("featherweight") fire-pump engine into one of the most successful competition units of his day.

The company had been acquired by Jaguar in 1963 and Hassan was made director in charge of Jaguar power units. He recruited Autocar's technical editor, Harry Mundy, as chief development engineer, and the two jointly developed a top-of-the-range V12 engine for Jaguar, one of the finest luxury car power units of recent years.

Jackdaw



THIS page is to be devoted to EastEnders, a drama series from the BBC that might be best described for American audiences as a "soap opera" but that it violates three basic qualities of soaps: 1. No one is rich and famous...

my wife and son are stranded in the Alps after their charter plane crashed as a result of sabotage by my arch-business rival! are not the norm. Rather, we have things like Ethel (one of those older women) offering to do Lofty's laundry for him at the local laundrette, but neglecting to separate the colours from the whites, so that she has to try explaining to him why he's now got pink underwear! Soap differences found at the Eastenders website: www.nyu.edu/~gsas/admin/beans/ Thanks to Alex Clay.

Roll over

A VIVID example of the "new musicology", this is an interdisciplinary study of romance and sexuality. It underscores the extent to which the piano resonates with intimations of both homosexuality and mortality.

support to millions, and perhaps one day soon, billions of people all over the world. Such a single act of unconditional love is very powerful.

Sleepy time THE label of Nyctal tablets contains (Nyctal) = an over-the-counter sleep aid begins: "Nyctal Night-Time Sleep Aid"; continues: "An aid to the relief of temporary sleep disturbance... ends with a "Warning: May cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive or operate machinery. Stating the obvious. Thanks to Val Secretan from Norway."

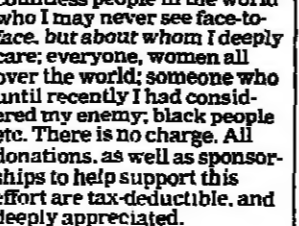
Wide love

TO HELP heal the world. Write a Love Letter to Someone, or to Everyone, perhaps an individual or a group of people that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to reach, and we will publish it for you here on the World Wide Web. Each one of us can now offer the very best of ourselves and our lives to the world: our deepest understanding, generosity and kindness, our forgiveness, wisdom, compassion and

your friends, with anyone you have perceived as your enemy, with your family, your past, people you've hurt or been hurt by, and so on, sometimes in cases where it is not possible to even locate the person, or people, to whom you are writing. In other words, it's a very powerful way of committing to forgiveness, love and compassion, of letting go and healing. It is one that holds enormous benefits for the writer, and possibly the recipient, and not insignificantly, great inspiration for many others who may read it. Gather your thoughts together, sit down, and write from the heart. And some examples of the recipients of this unconditional love: the countless people in the world who I may never see face-to-face, but about whom I deeply care; everyone, woman and man, over the world; someone who until recently I had considered my enemy; black people etc. There is no charge. All donations, as well as sponsorships to help support this effort, are tax-deductible, and deeply appreciated.

Lethal dose

"I SNOTORED it up. It was better than great... I played the hardest, fastest I ever played." With meths came a fire he'd never felt. A dozen nights of meth-fed marathon jams improved his drumming in a hurry. The band hit the garage circuit outside



Details... hard and fast

Speak to the heart in you at

http://www.scruzuel.com/

San Francisco, and 16-year-old Devon had a new friend. "I had tried LSD. After meth, I even smoked crack a couple of times," he says. "They were nowhere near this. I mean who needs that stuff when \$40 of meth keeps you going for two days?" It wasn't just drumming that improved. "Sex on meth," he says, "was like an other level." Meth can trigger extreme sexual performance in both sexes. One woman who'd never had an orgasm sucked the "glass dick" — a meth pipe — and climaxed with her man 10 times that night. Another guy in Devon's orbit tried a new partying mode, the one man orgy. He rented a stack of porn films, smoked meth, and started masturbating. He lasted an hour. Then two, three, four hours — loving every minute until he had his unimpaired wad that that practically knocked him off his feet. Only then did he look down and see blood. He had rubbed the skin off his penis. Next stop: skin grafts. Devon didn't bleed for meth. A skinny stoner who'd never had a steady girl, he sud-

Socialist and worker... Mickey Fenn with his wife Denise

Birthdays

Nell Armstrong, first man on the moon, 66; Billy Birmingham, football manager, 65; Barbara Flynn, actress, 48; Bob Geldof, singer and fundraiser, 45; Alison Hayes, lawyer, 28; Field Marshal Sir Peter Tugs, Chief of the General Staff, 61; Sir Bert Millidge, retiring chairman, the Football Association, 52; John Monks, general secretary, TUC, 51; Betty Olliphant, ballet dancer and teacher, 78; Rodney Pattison, yachtsman, 53; Miriam Rothschild, zoologist and entomologist, 69; Nicholas Scott MP, former Conservative minister, 63; Peter Smith, chairman,

Death Notices

MCDONALD, Janet (nee Reed) (80), passed away on 2nd August 1996, quietly and peacefully, in Kingston, Surrey (previously of Gurnock, Glasgow, 1916-1988). Mother of Sherman and Grandmother of Colin and Karen.

Engagements

JONASLESCOFF Aves Jones, and Paul Jonsson, of Highgate, are pleased to announce their recent engagement. The ceremony will be celebrated on August 10th at 7.00pm. To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 Fax 0171 713 4129

Emily Sheffield

Hold the short straw Party member nothing to Voter psych

Holding the Short straw

Global equality will drive next phase of industrial revolution



Larry Elliott

FOR once, the spin doctors are right. Clare Short and Michael Meacher have the best jobs on Labour's front bench. Ms Short and Mr Meacher probably don't see it this way, and it says much for the introverted, short-tempered focus of modern Britain that Overseas Development and Environmental Protection are seen as places to which you send troublesome colleagues to ensure they don't upset the unions or the commuters on Network South-east.

Yet, as the millennium approaches, it is obvious that the two great and unavoidable economic challenges of the 21st century will be sustaining the global environment and alleviating global poverty.

The common assumption is that these challenges will be spawned by a world economy that continues to underperform. But this view is based on the experience of the past not the future, when the global economy is at last set to change for the better.

Forget the little nudges to

base rates or the trimming of tax rates — themselves examples of the short-term fixation of Westminster life. The fluctuations of the business cycle are about to be subsumed into an upswing that may last for a generation.

Looking back across the 200-odd years of modern capitalism, each phase of industrialisation was driven by one dominant technology — steam power, the railways, electricity, the internal combustion engine. Although the pattern has not been uniform, the world economy has tended to undergo through long cycles of around 50-60 years, with one technology becoming exhausted and replaced.

But the new paradigm does not arrive overnight. There is often a period when the old technology is on its way out but the new has yet to fulfil its potential. The first motor cars, for example, were produced at the end of the 19th century, but to get the most from the technology there was a need for roads, the Fordist method of production and the drift to the suburbs.

It is clear that information technology will be the driving force behind the next wave, and over the next 20 years the full benefits of the computer age will become apparent. The boom dominated by the information generation will be bolstered by two other changes: the geographic revolution that will bring the huge markets of the former communist world into the global economy and the entry



of women into the workforce in ever-increasing numbers. In the past, some of the boom phases of the long cycle lasted longer than others, and one key factor behind the longevity of the upswing is the policy stance. The strength and duration of the post-war boom, for example, was helped by expansionist macro-economic policies, the far-sightedness of the Marshall aid programme and a political culture in which narrowing the gap between rich and poor was seen as important.

To make sure the next long cycle lasts as long as the Golden Age, the West will need to rediscover that policy formula. Central banks and finance ministries must recognise that inflation is no longer the enemy it once was, the International Monetary Fund should show to Russia the generosity the Americans once accorded to western Europe and, above all, resources should be shifted from rich to poor and from north to south. The need for redistribution

should not be underestimated. A recent paper by the ISE economist Janny Quah, for the *Economic Journal*, shows that the global economy is polarising into rich and poor countries. Contrary to traditional analyses, there is no guarantee that the poor countries will gradually converge with rich ones.

EVIDENCE of this trend also emerged from the recent United Nations human development report, which found that the total wealth of the world's 358 billionaires exceeds the combined annual incomes of 45 per cent of the world's people.

The get-out clause for these plutocrats — that trickle-down economics will help the rich as well as the poor — is looking a bit thin. In the mid-80s, the poorest 20 per cent of the world's people took 2.3 per cent of global income; today that figure is 1.4 per cent.

Without direct and prompt

action, this trend is likely to accelerate. Those who point to the success of the tiger economies of East Asia as examples of nations that have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps conveniently forget that the policies which underpinned rapid development — interventionist industrial policies and protectionism — are outlawed by the new economic orthodoxy.

Moreover, the sheer cost of the physical infrastructure necessary for the computer age — terminals, software, fibre-optic networks and so on — is likely to widen the gap between rich and poor.

The UN recognises that the problem has to be addressed. Richard Jolly, principal author of the human development report noted: "Plutocrats are often mesmerised by the quantity of growth. They need to be more concerned with its quality and to take timely action to prevent growth that is lopsided and flawed."

The UN cited five damaging

forms of growth — that which does not translate into jobs, that which is not matched by the spread of democracy, that which snuffs out separate cultural identities, that which depletes the environment and growth where most of the benefits are seized by the rich.

This last is what the UN calls ruthless growth. It is what leads to street kids being exterminated like vermin in Latin America and children going without proper education or medical care in sub-Saharan Africa. If it continues unopposed, the famine, the civil wars, the waves of migration and the environmental degradation of the past two decades will be as nothing to what will occur in the first 20 years of the 21st century.

So what should be done? The most basic reform is to provide decent education to every child. In 1980, South Korea and Pakistan had the same per-capita incomes, but Pakistan had primary school enrolment of 30 per cent,

South Korea 94 per cent. Today, South Korea's GDP per head is three times that of Pakistan.

Although such a programme would require serious amounts of cash, there are two obvious sources. The first would be a tax on pollution in the West, beginning with a car-borne tax to cut down on greenhouse gases. The second would be to press ahead with the idea, floated by James Tobin, of a transactions tax on foreign exchange speculation.

BOTH ideas have struggled to make headway, not least because the rich and powerful — who would be the big losers — have mounted a vigorous defence of their privileged position. But, as Professor Tobin noted in the foreword to a recent book (*The Tobin Tax*, OUP), most of the opposition is groundless. If the financial sector is so cost-conscious that a 0.25 per cent transactions

tax would cause it to up sticks and head for the Cayman Islands, one may ask why it has not done so already.

On any objective basis, the developing world could make better use of 0.25 per cent of the \$1 trillion a day-plus passing through the foreign exchanges than do western financial institutions. Providing some form of global fiscal mechanism would also put democratic fetters on free-booting international capitalism.

Ultimately, the rich West has a choice. It can make some modest sacrifices that would allow the developing world to take a fair share of rising global prosperity. Or it can insist, as Neville Chamberlain once said of Czechoslovakia, that the developing world is a faraway place of which we know nothing. In that case, it must face the near-certainty that global poverty, insecurity and ecological disaster will truncate the upswing for which we have waited so long.

Party members unite — you have nothing to lose but their words

Debate Mark Seddon

WELCOME to the hall of mirrors. Reacting to a little summer ferment from the unusually quiet Labour left, a party spokesman suggested that an unholy alliance had been got up by the left and the Tories to undermine Tony Blair. The claim defies comprehension, but the Tory plenty more. One of the most successful operations conducted by the right over the past decade has been the capture of the political lexicon.

Perhaps you imagined that your support for progressive causes put you on the radical left. You are mistaken! The word "radical" has long since been appropriated by the right, who have also assumed the "reformers" mantle.

In the United States, liberals are derided by conservatives, who regard liberals as conservative and themselves as radical. In Britain those brave enough to still admit to being democratic socialists suffer a double whammy, for they suffer the calumnies heaped upon them by erstwhile soulmates describing themselves as "modernisers".

In Labour's hall of mirrors, socialists who want to transform society become "traditionalists", "conservatives" or plain "old Labour", while

those modernisers who do not believe that Thatcherism promulgated a unique regression, but something to be improved upon, are described as being "new" and "radical".

Can it really have been only five years ago that the then leader of the Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, wrote this: "The public utilities are by their nature monopolies. They are also monopolies on which the rest of the economy depends. It is essential that they remain in public ownership — nationalised, in the original sense of the word, as single units, owned by the nation through elected government and capable of management in a way that meets national and community needs: efficiency, responsiveness to consumers, satisfactory working conditions and coherent planning..."

Only a few short years ago divide this from Kim Howells' recent exhortation in the *New Statesman*: "Brothers and sisters — embrace competition!" In the latest issue, Howells claims equal influence from Karl Marx and Adam Smith.

Which is new? Who is radical and who is blue?

The beneficiary of the capture of the lexicon and the political and economic ground that comes with it is the old, reactionary right. It may be that there will shortly be a Labour government, but the Thatcherite cancer has gone deep. Whole areas of debate

are now taboo. Never mind soft issues such as the legalisation of cannabis, it has become well nigh impossible to argue for increased taxation of the better off to fund better services for the poor. Instead there is a partial consensus on public spending, taxation, deregulation and control of the trade unions. New Labour fights on ground identified with the right, which pushes the right even further right.

Compulsory arbitration is floated for striking tube drivers, so the Tories take one step further — forbid strikes in the public sector and fine trade unions for engaging in them, even if they have balloted so to do. Labour begins to question the affordability of the welfare state, and the Tories respond by threatening its privatisation.

Mrs Thatcher may have imagined that she had slain the vicious for good. But in recent weeks there has been a flurry of industrial action, often taking the form of a one-day strike. This has been described as a "new tactic"; the

action is advanced by "militant", "greedy" or "intransigent" trade unionists.

Ageing foot soldiers from Thatcher's think tanks propose reconstituting legislation that would take industrial relations back to 1901 and the Taff Vale judgment, which allowed unions to be sued for damages by employers. It is of no matter that one-day strikes have replaced longer stoppages. It is of little interest that the strike weapon is only ever used in the last resort and by workers who have voted to take it.

Such strikes bear no comparison to the unofficial industrial action waged by the City of London against British industry. And has there been any demand for the pocket-stuffing bosses of the privatised utilities to submit their claims on monopoly profits to arbitration?

The left will eventually have to struggle free from the linguistic straitjacket it finds itself in, if it is to rediscover its sense of purpose.

Mark Seddon is editor of *Tribune*

Boycott brigade targets Indonesia

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

SOMETHING about the Netherlands and its spin-off entities seems to enrage a certain type of Brit. Centuries ago it was the Dutch proper who excited the rancors. More recently it was the Boer cousins upon whom the wrath of the boycotting classes descended. Now the former Dutch East Indies are squarely in the frame.

Indonesia is shaping up nicely as the South Africa of the 1990s; for the true nostalgic, there is even the British Insistence (*à la* Douglas-Home in 1970) that weapons sold to the regime are for external defence, not internal repression.

The vastness, the remoteness, the multiple ethnic problems all add up to a glorious re-employment opportunity for the "Barclays shadow board", the embassy pickets and all those who used to stand outside supermarkets handing out lists of tainted products.

Pop stars and entertainers will cancel gigs in Bali; the Canadians will demand the Commonwealth toughen up sanctions; dissident politicians of whom you'd never previously heard will be declared outlawed. Yes, quite like old times.

Watch out for those countries with exports similar to the Indonesians — they will be the loudest members of the sanctions chorus, as the Canadians and the Americans last time. This time, the chaps in Canberra, eyeing the unfriendly giant to the north, are likely to be leading those urging "constructive engagement".

Of course, the boycott-Indonesia industry will be an exercise in displacement or transference or whatever is the trendy term. Just as all the Penguin Specials in the world couldn't alter the fact that it was not South Africa that was threatening to kill 100million Europeans with multiple-warheads, so all the women-for-peace and hands-off-East-Timor campaigners laid end to end won't make Indonesia the Far East's most clear-armed, unstable mass-execution-loving superpower about to absorb Hong Kong into its distinctly un-maternal bulk.

So Jakarta can shrug off the looming assault by the boycotting classes? Not exactly. The boycotters' record may suggest muddle-headedness, sanctimony, even hypocrisy. But they have a killer instinct for the type of regime likely to feel the squeeze and, more importantly, to be forced to give ground. The rest of us can sit back and enjoy another Dutch treat.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.94	France 7.512	Italy 2.307	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.81	Germany 2.22	Malta 0.5370	South Africa 8.75
Belgium 45.66	Greece 367.00	Netherlands 2.4625	Spain 185.00
Canada 2.075	Hong Kong 11.87	New Zealand 2.204	Sweden 10.04
Cyprus 0.6975	India 55.27	Norway 9.62	Switzerland 1.795
Denmark 6.82	Ireland 0.8340	Portugal 229.50	Turkey 134.760
Finland 6.695	Israel 4.89	Saudi Arabia 5.77	US 1.8125

Supplied by Halifax Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel) as at close of business on Friday

Voter psychology colours the cost of borrowing

Briefing Richard Thomas

AS THE ticking of the election clock gets louder, the pressure on the Chancellor's factor is growing. With room for tax cuts narrowing, monetary policy is becoming a likely device.

It is unstrange that the Bank of England — which on Wednesday is likely to deliver another threat against further rate cuts — examines the purely economic effects of its changes in base rates in its quarterly bulletin today.

Forget shoppers and swing voters: the Bank has modelled the effect of monetary policy shifts on different industrial sectors, using data from 1970 to 1994. The article uses a 1.1 percentage point rise in official rates as the starting point, and it is reasonable to assume the equivalent rate cut would have mirror-image effects.

The scale of the response varies markedly across sectors. In construction, the decline in output hits 2.1 per cent — against a 1.5 per cent drop in production industries and a 1 per cent contraction in service sector output.

There are three factors which the authors Joe Ganley and Chris Salmon say could



explain the divergence. The first is links to the housing market. Construction reacts quickly and strongly to dearer money, because owner-occupiers do. In the production sector, companies making building materials react similarly.

A second variable shaping the impact of rate changes is the public sector. In the

vice sector, the Bank finds that "other services", including health, social services and education — are a brake on output changes. If anything, activity in state-owned bits of the economy could increase as private firms tighten belts.

The third explanation for different sensitivities is the size of firms. The Bank has compared reaction to base rate changes with the average firm output and "concentration ratio" (the percentage of total output accounted for by the five largest firms). A strong correlation emerges.

Within manufacturing — the only area with good enough data to generate robust conclusions — marked differences emerge even be-

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

'Every heroic image was capped by something seedy, cynical and much nearer the bone of real, unpleasant life'



Frank Keating

TO US in the vast congregation of hangers-on who piled out of the caravans three weeks ago, the true heroine of the 1996 Games was not a twentysomething gymnast, a runner, a jumper, a standing-still long-legged length of pulchritude

frozen in concentration as she prepared to defy gravity in the women's long jump.

To us lot in the invading army which has marched across Georgia, cursing the heroine was Mrs Dick Pound — wife of Canada's IOC bigwig — who kneed an Atlanta politician in the groin last Wednesday.

It goes without saying that the cop was over-officious and over-harassed and over-the-top. Every one of them has been, male or female. They have not been able to cope. Security was one thing, the traffic horrendously grid-locked another. The army of foreign athletes and media mayhem was another altogether. They hated us, and it

was mutual. They could not stand the world invading their narrow space, seethingly criticising the little town of which they had been so proud.

But then there was Johnson and Redgrave, and Bailey and Lewis and Morcell and Suleymanoglu, and Pinsent and, I suppose, Black and young Ainslie, and, to be sure, many more of similar and valorous resplendence.

But you could never get away from the day-to-day Atlanta. Why should you hear now of journalists' gripes? We should count ourselves lucky being here, the epicentre of a fortnight's sport and sportsmanship, of endeavour and competition and athleticism. But that could seldom allow

itself to break through. At every heroic image, there were just a couple of minutes to savour it before it was capped by something seedy and cynical and much nearer the bone and the knuckle of real and unpleasant life.

Mrs Pound's feat was to do what we had all been daring ourselves to do.

It had begun at the very beginning, this good glow at once being topped by something crass and uncomfortable and geared to commerce.

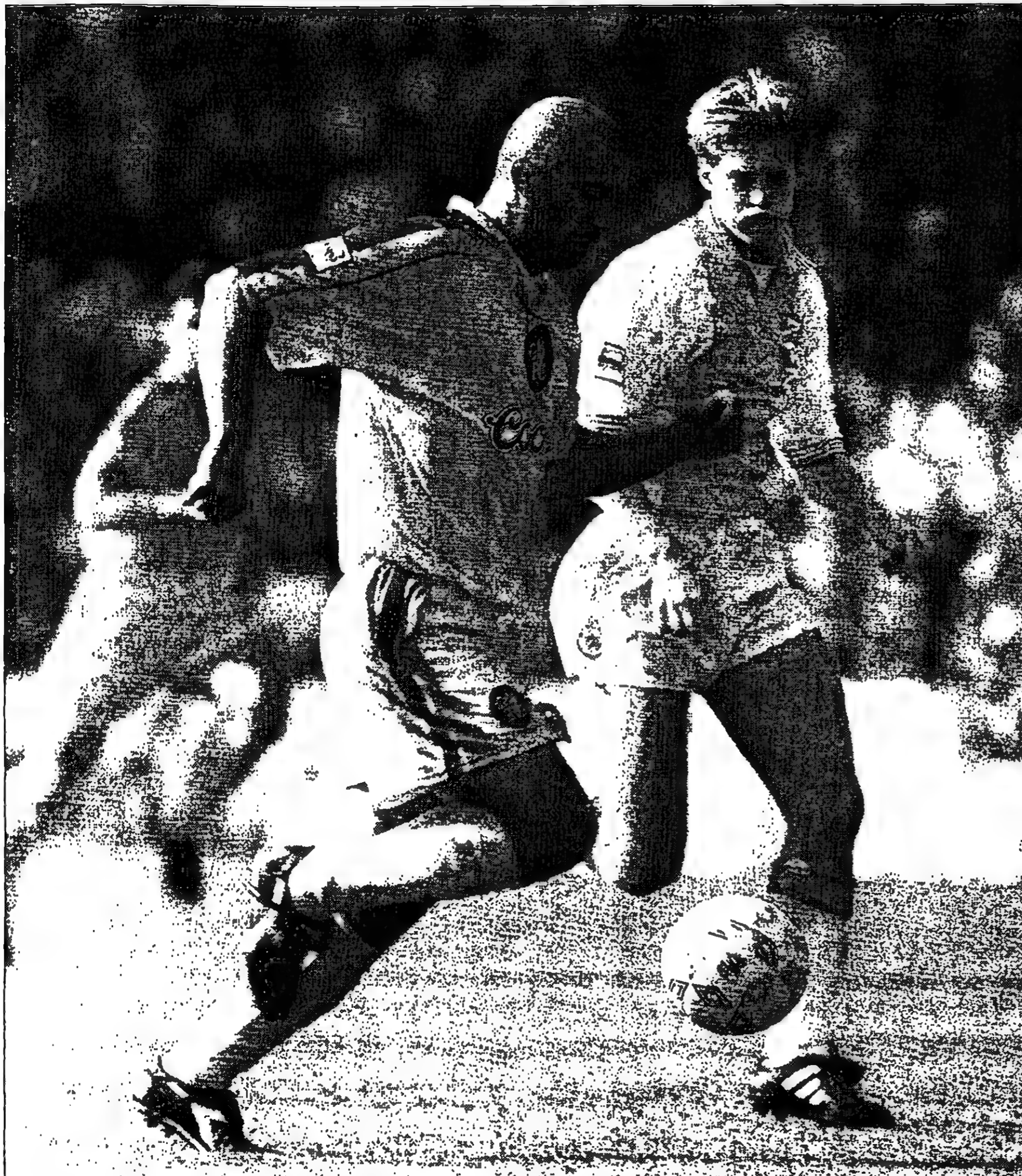
Up travelled the sacred lick of flame by pulley to ignite the Olympic bowl on the topmost plinth. Hurray — till we saw that the bowl was cast in the open-shell shape of a gigantic chip-wraper for McDonald's french fries. The hamburger conglomerate was cashing in, I suppose, till these Games were inexplicably given the nod six years ago, the two sentences most closely associated by the rest of the world with this tin-pot jumble of derelict used-car lots cowering below a score of skyscrapers was "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn..." and "I have a dream..." The first from the 1939 Hollywood Civil War epic *Gone With The Wind* and the second, of course, that boom-

ingly resonant panegyric to slavery and segregation by Martin Luther King.

Well, a decade ago the Atlanta businessman Billy Payne, who looks and talks like a cross between the former Texas billionaire Bunker Hunt and the Dallas scamp opera anti-hero J R Ewing, had a dream all right. Senor Samaranch and his IOC cronies fell for it. And now, the dream fulfilled, the rest of the world decamps back to civilisation this morning with the majority saying, "Atlanta", "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

Payne and Atlanta's mayor Bill Campbell remained impervious — "you whining critics should be taken up to the sket range," said the latter, forgetting the order that the Georgia penal authorities had postponed all prison executions for the duration of the Games. But only till today.

Just before I was arrested, a friend had driven me in on the airport road. You could see the jagged skyscrapers, like bad teeth in the mouth of a crane, in the smog-hazed distance. "Ah me," I remarked with a sigh, "the dreaming spires." "What sport are you down to cover tonight?" asked my pal, jumping to the blessed reverie of the theme, "a spot of cricket in the Parks, what?" No, this was a brightened corner of a foreign field all right. And on impulse, together we recited, "Now stands the SWATCH clock at ten-to-three. And are there junk-burgers still for tea?" There were. Exorbitant as usual. Inedible as usual.



Taking it in his stride... Vialli, a member of Juventus's European Cup winning side in May, again came out on top against Ajax yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Chelsea in surreal win with the off-colour Vialli

Michael Walker

BLUE was not the colour, but for once that major detail was of minor importance to Chelsea fans yesterday. At the start of the second half, when Gianluca Vialli finally ran out in a Chelsea shirt, it was yellow in hue.

To the thousands of Chelsea fans at the City Ground, however, the Italian could have come out in the nude and still produced the collective moan of pleasure they exhaled. For the record, his first touch for Chelsea was an assured short pass to Dan Petrescu.

The sight of Vialli was the high point of a glorious if slightly surreal day for Chelsea followers. Pre-season football usually has an artificial feel to it, with teams and tackles often understrength, but after 16 minutes of the Umbro Tournament final the London club found themselves two up against Ajax.

Now Chelsea, of course, are in the midst of a remarkable transition, but even bearing that in mind such a scoreline takes a bit of getting used to. The fact that they then maintained it for the remaining 74 minutes was all the more creditable. Ajax were missing six significant individuals from their European Cup final defeat against Vialli's Juventus in May but, as footballing wisdom has it, all you can do is beat the opposition.

Ruud Gullit's side did so, and the new manager was a happy man. "I think we performed very well. We did well tactically, it's just the beginning." The manager is not so one-eyed as to miss deficiencies, however, and he pointed out that Ajax had missed a few serious chances.

Riki Musampa, whose goal had seen off Manchester United on Saturday while Chelsea put out Nottingham Forest on penalties, was now the principal culprit and he could quite plausibly have had a first-half hat-trick. He missed a sitter from six yards just before Chelsea scored, another effort well blocked by Kharina and then dragged a third shot narrowly wide.

Had he taken the first, said the Ajax coach Louis van Gaal, Chelsea would have found it more difficult. "They scored from both of their first two chances and after that it

was always going to be hard." As it was, Chelsea held their lead comfortably, especially in the first half. The opener was created by Gullit's other Italian buy Di Matteo, who ran things for a while although he was prone to the odd slapdash pass. The one that picked out Wise in the box did not fit into that category, though; Wise brought it down and poked the ball past Van der Sar.

Di Matteo also supplied the second when his clever control and swift incisive pass picked out the invading Petrescu. It was a typical Chelsea wing-back surge and Petrescu sent it first time beyond the goalkeeper.

Ajax had the better of the second half, although Vialli had two chances comfortably saved.

Even with his first silverware on the table, Gullit, who will play his first game of the season in Thursday's friendly at Sampdoria, said he and his players would be keeping their feet on the ground. "While these victories are nice, they do not mean anything because it's only pre-season," he said. "I'm not now thinking about buying any more players. My first job is to ask the players to perform the way I want them to, and if they continue as they have done then I will be happy. Of course if they don't do the things I want then I will look again. But at the moment I'm happy."

Earlier Manchester United had seen off Forest in a toothless encounter for the third and fourth places. It took United 83 minutes before they found a bite and it was David Beckham, "our best player pre-season", according to Alex Ferguson, who finally roused United with a sweet, swerving right-foot drive from 20 yards. Three minutes later Brian McClair side-footed past Mark Crossley after Colin Cooper's deflected clearance fell into the Scot's path.

In the final minute United made it three when Philip Neville ran on to an instinctive flick from Paul Scholes and calmly lobbed Crossley. That was enough to beat Forest, who had taken an early lead through Kevin Campbell. He was later denied a second by the referee, a decision the manager Frank Clark later called "scandalous". Welcome to the new season.

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Duffield times it to the Second

Chris Hawkins

GEORGE Duffield took several floggings out of Lester Piggett's book when riding a perfect waiting race on Last Second in Saturday's Nassau Stakes at Goodwood. It was a memorable performance and Duffield, in the final furlong of a career spanning 30 years, can seldom have shown better judgment or exhibited such finesse.

Last Second is, according to her trainer Sir Mark Prescott, "a frail little thing who needs plenty of looking after" and Duffield certainly did that, wrapping her up and tucking her away until the last 150 yards.

When asked out she quickened brilliantly to win by two lengths and, despite her delicacy, should hardly have known she had been to the races. Last Second will not run for while, however, and has the Sun Chariot Stakes or the Champion Stakes as her autumn objective.

Duffield, 48, came from a Yorkshire mining family and describes himself, in his early days, as an "overweight, but tempered little lad and that's why I made it as a jockey."

As a 15-year-old, standing 4ft 8ins and weighing less than 12st, he declined a life in the grinding pits taking himself off to Newmarket for fresh air and 19 shillings a week to sign on as an apprentice with Jack Waugh.

He firmly believes that combative attitude stood him in good stead in the hard school of a racing stable. "I regard myself as an aggressive rider at my best on a horse that wants taking hold of," said Duffield. "But I can do the kid-glove stuff if it's required."

He concedes that the Ed-

ders and Dettoris may have a length or so on him, but he could be short-changing himself for luck and opportunities are major factors in success on the Turf.

On paper the 30-runner Stewards' Cup looked the usual lottery, but several experts and plenty of punters watched on to Coastal Bluff, who started 10-1 joint favourite and never gave his supporters a moment's anxiety.

As soon as Jimmy Fortune asked him two furlongs out he quickened so decisively that the contest was over in half a dozen strides and Coastal Bluff raced home three lengths clear of Double Bounce to give David Barron, the Thirsk trainer, a second win in the race in three years.

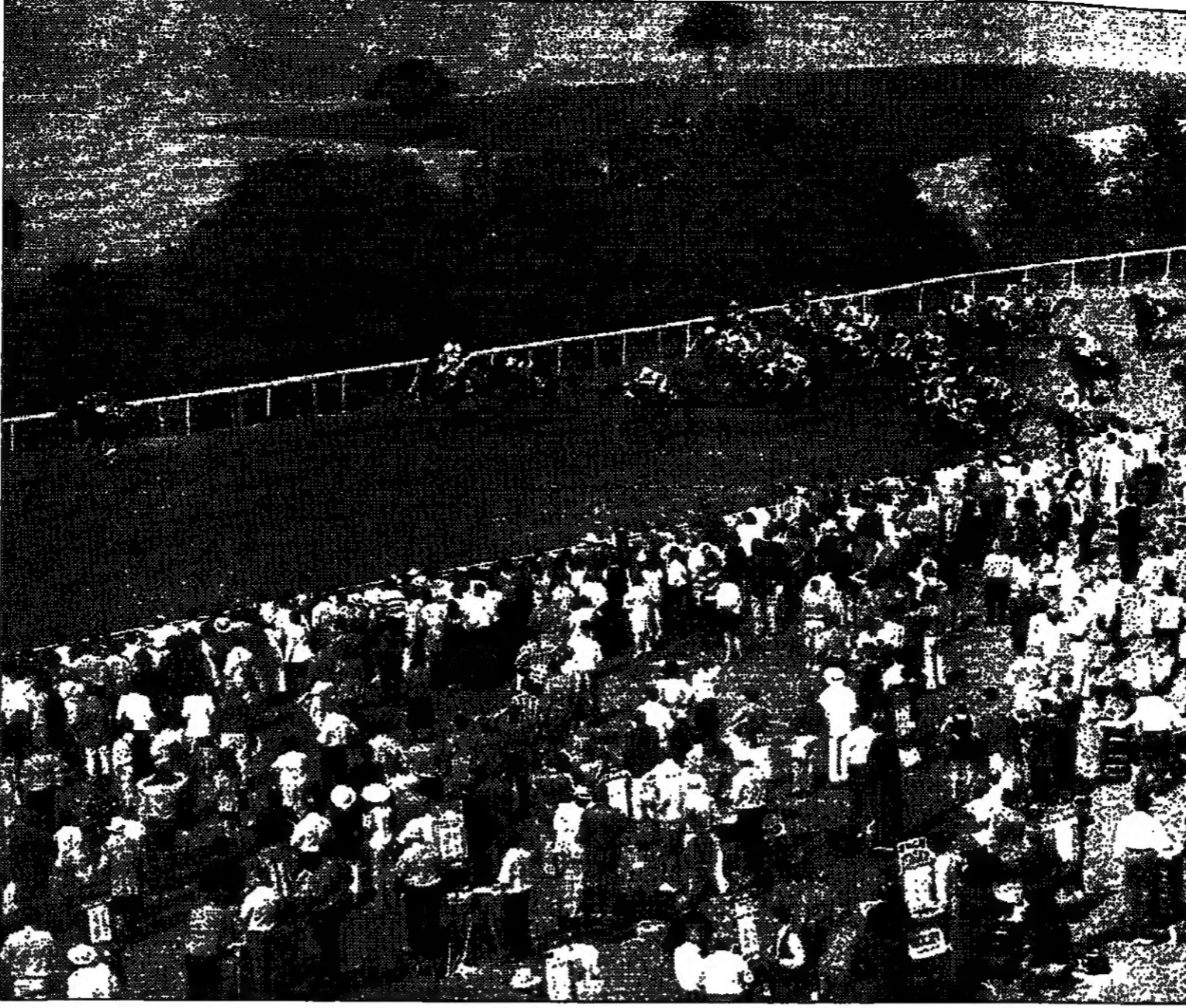
Barron had been worried that the ground might be a shade too firm and was in two minds about running him until spurred on by his assistant Val Greaves who accused him of being scared and "putting the horse on a pedestal."

Coastal Bluff, whose sire Standan won the race just as easily in 1979, will now probably go for the Ayr Gold Cup next month and it will take some drastic measures from the handicapper to stop him doing the double last achieved by Lochsong.

Stories about the prowess of the West on the home gallops ensured that Paul Cole's newowner started odds-on for his debut in the Richard Easter Stakes, and judging by the way he won there is little doubt we shall be hearing plenty more of him.

Bookmakers gave this big, strong colt a 25-1 quote for the 3,000 Guineas, while going 20-1 about his stable-companion Futra, thought at this stage to be inferior.

Another colt to make an impression on the Guineas market was Bahareh who is now



Home alone... there's only one horse in at as Coastal Bluff sprints clear of 29 rivals to win the Stewards' Cup

12-1 second best behind the 7-1 favourite Zamindar, after a six lengths stroll at Newmarket. Bahareh, a half-brother to last year's star, ran home as straight as a gun, but in the centre of the course and, while probably beating little, looked a pretty high class animal.

In Munich yesterday Brantston Abby equalled the post-war mare's record of Laurel Queen by winning the 22nd race of her career and David Abel, her owner, was also on target in the feature race at Chester with Sea Victor.

Victor for 12,000 guineas out of John Gosden's yard at the July Sales last year and it's a tribute to Jimmy Harris that he has done so well. He will go on to the Casuarwitch. Officials at Newcastle were satisfied with the attendance of around 6,000 for their first Sunday meeting yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE SELWYN

Mr Sox claims denied by Club

ALLEGATIONS that Mr Sox, the horse from which Richard Davis fell to his death at Southwell last month, had been running with a cracked pelvis have been thoroughly investigated by the Jockey Club and found to be without foundation, writes Chris Hawkins.

Andrew Larnach, the conditional rider who had schooled the horse in April and been appalled by the way he jumped, told the Jockey Club of his suspicions after the death of Davis but nothing has been substantiated.

"Larnach told us that he had heard the horse had a cracked pelvis but he knew no more," said David Pipe, the Jockey Club director of public affairs.

"We spoke to Laura Shalley, the trainer, and to vets involved with the stable but there was no evidence anywhere to support Larnach's story."

The allegation was that Mr Sox had sustained the injury in April and that was why he did not run at Plumpton, but the horse ran twice after that and achieved his best placing when eighth of 17 at Stratford.

There is unlikely to be a satisfactory conclusion to this sad affair which is being looked into by a four-man Jockey Club team.

But the wider issue of permit-holders, like Shalley, and whether they should be allowed to run horses under rules is also being examined.

Pipe said: "Permit holders must have proper, decent facilities before they are licensed. We shall be looking into this a bit more."

Ripon card with guide to the latest form

A detailed racing card for Ripon, listing various races such as the 3.30 Ripon Park (m), 4.00 Ripon Park (m), 4.30 Ripon Park (m), 5.00 Ripon Park (m), 5.30 Ripon Park (m), 6.00 Ripon Park (m), 6.30 Ripon Park (m), 7.00 Ripon Park (m), and 7.30 Ripon Park (m). Each race entry includes the race name, time, and a list of participating horses with their jockeys and trainers.

Brighton tonight

A detailed racing card for Brighton, listing various races such as the 5.55 Brighton (m), 6.25 Brighton (m), 6.55 Brighton (m), 7.25 Brighton (m), 7.55 Brighton (m), and 8.25 Brighton (m). Each race entry includes the race name, time, and a list of participating horses with their jockeys and trainers.

Carlisle tonight

A detailed racing card for Carlisle, listing various races such as the 6.10 Carlisle (m), 6.40 Carlisle (m), 7.10 Carlisle (m), 7.40 Carlisle (m), 8.10 Carlisle (m), and 8.40 Carlisle (m). Each race entry includes the race name, time, and a list of participating horses with their jockeys and trainers.

Newton Abbot (N.H.) runners and riders

A detailed racing card for Newton Abbot (N.H.), listing various races such as the 2.15 Newton Abbot (m), 2.45 Newton Abbot (m), 3.15 Newton Abbot (m), 3.45 Newton Abbot (m), 4.15 Newton Abbot (m), 4.45 Newton Abbot (m), 5.15 Newton Abbot (m), 5.45 Newton Abbot (m), 6.15 Newton Abbot (m), and 6.45 Newton Abbot (m). Each race entry includes the race name, time, and a list of participating horses with their jockeys and trainers.

Results

A table listing the results of various races from Brighton, Carlisle, and Newton Abbot. It includes the race name, time, and the winning horse and jockey.

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Valentine park... Athens took to Nigeria, and the feeling was mutual. After the captain Nwankwo Kanu, below, received the crowd's acclaim, the whole team lined up to reciprocate

PHOTOGRAPHS: BERGHO MORAES, JOE CANARETTA

Amokachi strikes first African gold



Bold Nigerians pull off another thrilling escape

Soccer
Richard Williams

TERRIBLE starters but masters of suspense, Nigeria became the first African team to win the Olympic football tournament by defeating Argentina by 3-2 in another hectic and enthralling match in Sanford Stadium in Athens on Saturday afternoon.

In front of 86,117 people, who filled the University of Georgia's great concrete bowl to capacity, Nigeria went behind to a goal from Argentina halfway through the second minute, or about 10 seconds earlier than they had conceded the first goal to Brazil in the semi-final. But in the same way, they fought back. And when they fell behind again, they fought back once more.

Against Brazil they equalised at 3-3 with 20 seconds left on the clock and then scored their sudden-death winner in the fourth minute of extra time. In the final the winning goal came with only 90 seconds of normal time remaining. The fact that it was scored with perhaps four of their men offside did nothing to reduce the belief that justice had been served.

The Nigerians had delighted not only the hundreds of their own supporters gathered in knots around the stadium, but the thousands of American families who had been thrilled by the Africans' speed and sense of adventure. Little sympathy was wasted on the silver medal winners, who had tried to close up the game after going 2-1 ahead and paid the price for their caution.

When Javier Zanetti fouled Emanuel Amunike with two minutes to go, Wilson Oruma took the free-kick just outside the left-hand edge of the penalty area. As the ball swung across, five Argentine defenders moved out with perfect synchronisation. Four green-shirted attackers were left exposed, and one of them — Amunike, appropriately enough — banged the ball past Fabio Cavalero in Argentina's goal.

The linesman, Peter Kelly of Trinidad and Tobago, kept his flag down, to South American consternation. The Argentine players, several of them fluent in Spanish through their time in the Serie A, clustered round the referee, the experienced Pierluigi Collina, but to no avail. The bitterness of their disappointment could be seen at the subsequent ceremony when their captain, the 23-year-old midfielder Christian Bassedas, received



Flag-lieutenant... Steve Backley, on crutches two months ago, celebrates his silver behind Zeleny, a repeat of the world championships

Backley honoured to be Czechmated

Javelin
Frank Keating

STEVE BACKLEY'S rotten luck is to be a javelin thrower in the same era as Jan Zeleny of the Czech Republic. Last year's top two world championship placings were repeated when the son of a Home Counties policeman had again to be satisfied with silver behind the phenomenally consistent Czech, who became the first man since 1924 successfully to defend an Olympic javelin title.

In Barcelona four years ago Backley was third behind Zeleny. Now the Czech says he might have a go as a baseball pitcher for the Atlanta Braves.

Backley was pleased enough to be the silver-decked bridesmaid, as well he should be, and immediately gave chivalrous best to the champion with handshakes and hugs. The javelin produces a close, almost monastic confraternity. They travel together, carrying their clobber from outpost to outpost through the year, and often they train together.

Backley and Zeleny spent many weeks last winter cheek by jowl preparing in the South African sun. "No problem at all," says Backley. "It's not like boxing. We're not toe-to-toe rivals like that and in our event you don't try and out-psych anyone. First and foremost you're performing against yourself."

Zeleny could now be said to have been one throw away from an Olympic hat-trick for, back in Seoul on a similarly sultry night eight years ago, the young Czech, then 22 and with the same strong chin fuzed in designer stubble, looked certain of the gold medal before, with the last throw of the competition, Tapio Korjus, another Finn, relegated him to the silver by six inches.

Zeleny, dark, handsome, fresh-shaved and satisfied, after Saturday's event, echoed Korjus when he said: "You know it is a good one when you see only a dot against the arc lights in the sky."

Backley laughed. Two months ago he had been on crutches after an Achilles tendon operation and he was despairing of his race against time. He missed the Olympic trial and made the team only hours before the selectors' deadline.

"This has to rate as my best performance ever," he said. "I missed a lot of training with the injury, so I knew I had to get a big throw in the opening round. I did that and I thought it might have shaken Zeleny. But it was not big enough. He's a hard man to beat. Under the circumstances Backley was pleased simply to be in Atlanta, let alone on the podium and holding in his strong right hand not a cricket ball but a medal of silver."

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Games declared drug free

Round-up

NICK GILLINGHAM, who finished fourth in the 200 metres breaststroke, is not after all to get the bronze medal; the Russian Andrei Kornayev yesterday won his appeal against a drug offence.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport reinstated the swimmer and his compatriot, the light-flyweight Greco-Roman wrestler Zafar Gulov, who had been stripped of their medals after testing positive for a banned drug, Bromantan but the court of Arbitration for Sport ruled there was insufficient evidence to disqualify them.

"There are a few doubts about the substance," said Jean-Philippe Rochat, secretary-general of the arbitration court. "The panel decided to grant the athletes the benefit of the doubt." The status of Bromantan will be reviewed.

Russian Olympic officials had argued that it was not a stimulant and was not officially named on the banned list. (It was added to the IOC list in June, when it was identified as a stimulant.) They said their athletes took the drug to strengthen their immune system against the heat and humidity. They offered to stop use of the drug if the IOC reinstated those banned for using it, including two other Russians, the swimmer Nina Zhivanevskaya and sprinter Marina Trandenkova, and a Lithuanian cyclist.

"The Games are thus officially, if provisionally, declared drug-free. These were the only five positive cases. The IOC insisted the drug was a proven stimulant and most added to the banned list in June."

Malcolm Arnold, chief athletics coach, suggested yesterday that Britain may have to employ experienced foreign coaches to develop elite athletes. He believes the sport has reached a "watershed" but could have a bright future with proper funding.

Arnold said: "Germany, currently the most successful European nation, receives almost \$4 million a year from government to develop their system. The Spanish match that amount. Our annual budget for coaching and development is equivalent to what a Second Division football manager might spend on a third-rate striker."

Agassi's five-star show heals the stripes

Tennis
Richard Jago

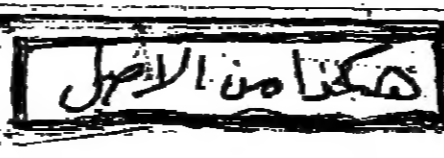
ANDRE AGASSI performed a great American tribal healing ceremony on Saturday. He also played some great tennis to overwhelm Sergi Bruguera 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 and take the gold medal he had said long ago was his ambition. But it was the way he handled the outcome which was important; the icon made Americans feel that, despite everything that had gone wrong, all was well with the Gnomes.

Agassi was soon able to take his spear into the ring with a mark of 87.44 metres. It was a bold challenge, to the others to narrow their eyes and pull out a better. Only Zeleny could, summoning a second throw of 88.16. The thing was done: Backley could not match it. At the very last Seppo Rety of Finland had one final ping and his 86.98 secured the bronze.

Until Zeleny the Finns have generally dominated javelin throwing down the centuries. Until Saturday the only man to win the event at back-to-back Games was the legendary Jonni Myrri at Antwerp in 1920 and Paris four years later. His distance at Paris was 62m, more than 26m short of Saturday's figure, and since Zeleny has been throwing, of course, specifications have been altered to stop the spear going so far. It was becoming dangerous to be in the same stadium.

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Final images... the US women's 4x400m relay team embrace victory, Jamaica's Haughton is momentarily grounded in the men's 4x400 relay, Muhammad Ali treasures another golden moment, and Chris Boardman hits the pedal trail for bronze

Thugwane makes the breakthrough

First for the rainbow nation

Marathon Stephen Bierley

AT THE end of the rainbow nation finally found its spot of gold. Josia Thugwane, never appearing to be stretching himself much above a Sunday morning jog, claimed black South Africa's first Olympic track-and-field gold medal yesterday morning. Many more will surely follow.

Nelson Mandela has always been keen on using sporting excellence to further the development of his country. Last week Hezekiel Sepeng won a silver medal in the men's 800m; Thugwane's victory was both unexpected and doubly welcome.

He might not have been in Atlanta at all but for his quick thinking in a crisis. In March he was shot in the face — luckily the bullet only grazed his chin — when his car was hijacked. More serious in running terms was the back injury he sustained when he leapt out of the moving car to make his escape.

"Three or four men got in my car and made me drive away," he recalled. "They told me to hand over the keys but I refused and there was a bit of a scuffle. They produced a gun and there was shooting. I jumped out of the car and that's how it ended."

For Britain Richard Nerurkar finished fifth, a run which confirmed both his ability at this top level of marathon running but also his shortcomings, namely the lack of a true change of pace in the closing miles.

The temperature at the start was already hotter than for the close of the women's race; the humidity was a drizzling 95 per cent. The race was never going to be super-fast, and without a pacemaker, the common currency of commercial marathons, the first half saw a huge bunch of runners rather than 50 runners gathered in an edgy swarm.

A couple of Poles, Leszek Beblo and Grzegorz Gajdos, made an early show of solidarity and at nine miles the Mexican Germain Silva sprang to the front and attempted, with a cursory wave, to get everybody running a little more quickly. Nobody responded. Nerves were clearly playing a significant role; no one runner wanted to make the break, everybody feared it.

Just after halfway the green shirts and shorts of three South Africans moved to the front, although there was no great shift of gear. Thugwane, his right hand flicking in a little loop, was one of the first and they were joined by Korea's Lee Bong-ju.

This break was eventually consumed with ease but the main bunch had now been reduced from 50 to just over 20. Nerurkar, running on the extreme left of the pack and out of trouble, continued to appear comfortable.

At around 19 miles Thugwane made his opening gambit; Lee followed, with Silva and the world champion Martin Fitz of Spain, chasing.

The gap grew before Kenya's Erick Wainaina, who like Douglas Wakihuri before him trails in Japan, emerged swiftly from the chasers, for all its great distance-running record, has never won the Olympic marathon; South Africa took gold in 1912 through Kenneth Mc-



Hard road to success... Thugwane (No. 2122), Wainaina (1819) and Lee Bong-ju, who took the marathon medals

Arthur, who was born in County Antrim. Lee appeared done for with five miles left but with a tremendous effort of will, he managed to catch Thugwane and Wainaina. The chance of him emulating Kwang Young-

cho's win in Barcelona became more than a possibility. The three tested one another with a series of mini surges and, as the stadium neared, it became clear they would enter it together. At the last water station Thugwane took a sig-

nificant advantage, then Lee nipped past Wainaina at the stadium entrance. There was no more drama but it was a wonderful finish. Thugwane won the Cape Town marathon and has been training in New Mexico. Few

if any had considered him an Olympic gold prospect, but this is the joy of such races which frequently throw up an outsider. Fitz had been the favourite and was clearly hugely disappointed with his fourth position.

Stirring silvers glint amid calls for a lot more brass

Athletics Stephen Bierley

H-BO silvers — and away. Steve Backley and the British quartet of Iwan Thomas, Jaime Baulch, Mark Richardson and Roger Black ensured that British supporters in the Olympic Stadium, and those watching from afar, had a good deal more to shout about on the final Saturday.

Black's earlier individual silver, and the absence of Michael Johnson, had encouraged hope of a last-gasp gold for the 4x400m relay team, but the United States still proved a little too strong.

So the final medal tally for Britain's track-and-field team was six: four silver and two bronze. It was, you might say, satisfactory. Malcolm Arnold, Britain's chief coach, deemed it "better than the public and media expected". The media were always cautious; the public's expectations were fuelled by the British Athletic Federation's constant tub-thumping, encouraged by the need to capture a new television contract. There was talk of a golden Saturday (Edwards) and a golden Monday (Holmes and Jackson). There were even those within the federation, largely on the marketing side, who seriously supposed Lixford Christie would repeat his Barcelona triumph.

"A new order is developing," said Arnold before leaving for home. "The future for Britain is a bright one, given reservations." These concern funding, with Arnold making an explicit plea for more money — much more money — to be made available via the National Lottery; a plea he also made after last year's World Championships in

Gothenburg, when Britain's medal tally was one fewer but contained Jonathan Edwards's triple-jump gold.

In 1995, Lottery funding was restricted to capital expenditure; now it may be used to pay for individual training and coaching. The federation has made its plea for such revenue funding.

"Time is of the essence," said Arnold. "If investment is not made quickly then we shall be another two years down the road to Sydney 2000. The federation's annual budget for coaching and development is equivalent to the amount a Second Division football manager might spend on a third-rate striker."

Such appeals, however justified, would ring with considerably more clarity, and be taken much more seriously, if the federation had managed its current dwindling resources in such a way as to build confidence at public and governmental levels.

Arnold stressed that "so few people in Britain have an understanding of the development of elite athletes". Yet he knows well enough that the federation's funding, based almost solely on the £1.8 million contract with ITV, which expires this year, has been channelled almost entirely towards the current elite. As a consequence the grassroots are underfunded and disillusioned.

The federation remains an unwieldy, ridiculously over-stuffed body in need of drastic pruning. A concerted effort has been made this year to shore up the cracks and present a homogeneous front. Yet its voice remains muffled, and for this Peter Radford, the executive chairman, must take most of the blame.

This is not to say that Radford's opinions and visions are flawed; rather that there is a general and painful lack of communication from

within the BAF. There is a siege mentality emanating from its Birmingham HQ, hence Arnold's latest fatuous references to the media.

"It is the sincere hope of the athletes and their support staff that one day our media will give us united support in the days before important competitions begin. We felt very badly let down, even undermined, by certain sections of our own media, our fellow countrymen." Such

travails, and all the more crassly timed because the Olympic story of drug abuse that so got under Arnold's skin was on BBC's Panorama, and the Corporation is currently being assiduously wooed to come up with a lucrative television contract to replace ITV. Has anyone told Arnold?

By far the most positive aspect of this Olympic year has been the increasing dialogue between the athletes and the federation, encouraged by Radford and led by Black and Geoff Parsons.

It is to be hoped that Black will continue to be as forceful off the track as he is on it. Britain's new crop of young athletes may not be as high profile as those in the immediate past, but they are far more aware of their responsibilities towards the current elite. As a need to sell it short.

Christie has been a sprinting colossus whose departure, whether this year or next, will leave a gaping hole. His influence as team captain will not be missed, however. The sport really has no room for media chips on shoulders, and this includes Arnold.

For Black, Edwards, Backley, Denise Lewis and Steve Smith, their names are forever etched in Olympic history; the delight of both Lewis and Smith in particular was wonderful to behold. Money, thank goodness, is not everything.

No joy for Boardman as Indurain is invincible again

Cycling William Fotheringham

FOUR years on, it is all so different. When Chris Boardman took gold in the track pursuit in Barcelona in 1992, it was a precisely won victory over a small group of specialists who operate in a field somewhat removed from the mainstream events such as the classics and Tour de France.

On Saturday, when he took bronze in the road time-trial, run for the first time in the Olympics, he finished just behind the Spaniard Miguel Indurain, the man who has dominated the Tour for five of the past six years, and Abraham Olano, the current world road race champion.

Although the Briton said "1992 was better, because I won", he was quick to underline the extent to which he has progressed. "These are the best cyclists in the world. When I rode the pursuit I rode against the best guys in that discipline, but it is a very narrow field. Today you can see the very best riders in what I think is the toughest sport in the world."

Just to emphasise the point, Boardman caught and passed Evariste Riis who, two weeks before, had dominated the Tour. Though admitting that

the Dane could not have been at his best after two weeks celebrating his and his country's first Tour victory, Boardman said gleefully: "It's still great to give him a kicking."

A professional career has its price, however, and the fact is that if Boardman had been able to devote the same amount of time to preparing for the time-trial as he did to the pursuit four years ago, gold might well have been the result. Instead, Saturday's was just one of 30 or so races he will ride this year, and there was no special training, no real acclimatisation to the heat and humidity. "It was simply a question of recovering from the Tour de France and getting to the start as fresh as I could."

As a result there was no joy in this medal. Max Sciandri was a happy man after taking bronze in the men's road race on Wednesday after he had shaped the race for half the distance; Boardman was merely "content" after being forced to compromise, something he finds utterly frustrating.

"The difference between now and Barcelona is that there I started knowing that the next 4½ minutes could completely change the course of my life," he said. "There was none of that unpleasant pressure on Saturday."

Underlining the change in Boardman's status, the man who yelled encouragement at the Wirral rider from the

team car behind the wards "Great Britain" in large letters was not an official of the British cycling squad but a Frenchman, Roger Legesy, manager of Boardman's GAN professional team.

Four years ago Legesy was still trying to make sense of the declining career of America's triple Tour winner Greg LeMond and probably knew nothing of Boardman until he read the results from Barcelona.

Typically, Boardman is already looking four years ahead, beyond the tests for the hour record which he will undergo in the next two weeks, beyond his try for a world pursuit title at Manchester at the end of this month, and beyond the world road championships in October. "Sydney will probably be my last Olympics, and there will be no compromise. If I get bronze there it will simply be because that is how good I am."

There was no golden farewell for the Indurain of women's cycling, Jeannie Longo-Ciprilli. France had been confident she would add a second gold to her 10 world titles, but no one had allowed for an unknown Russian, Zulfia Zabirova.

However, in Longo's road race win the previous week-end France won their first Olympic cycling gold medal for 34 years, and they finished with the sport's biggest medal haul: four golds, three silvers and a bronze, with Italy on four golds the next best.

Football
Vialli adds
gloss for
Chelsea
12

Olympics
First gold for a
black South
African
15

The Guardian Sport



Relaying the good news... Britain's 4 x 400 metres relay team — from left Jamie Baulch, Iwan Thomas, Mark Richardson and Roger Black — celebrate their silver medal at the Olympic Stadium

PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG MILLS

America plunges into the depths of its inner self

The Games

Richard Williams

TEARS. Tears everywhere. Tears of rage, tears of joy, rivers of tears, A Games full of tears. These were the Crying Games. Tears from winners like Michael Johnson, trickling in a thick rope down one cheek as the Star-Spangled Banner played and Old Glory climbed the stadium flagpole after his 100 metres victory. Winners like the heavyweight wrestler Kurt Angle, his face crumpling as he fingered his gold medal, thinking of his mom and a murdered team-mate. Tears from losers like Ato Boldon, weeping with frustration at the disruption caused by Linford Christie's second false start, or like Mike Powell as he lay crumpled in the long jump pit, the muscles to the left side of his groin on fire.



Tear jerker... Brooke Shields watches Andre Agassi's final

the teenage gymnast Dominique Dawes, unable to reconcile failure in the individual event with the ecstasy of a team gold two nights earlier, and from bruisers like the middleweight Roshii Wells, another in the line of US boxers dismantled by Cuban experts. Tears from the famous; tears, too, from the unknown. From the mourners at the funeral of Alice Hawthorne, a 44-year-old black businesswoman killed in Centennial Olympic Park by shrapnel from the Friday night pipe-bomb. From Regina Borden, a citizen of Atlanta who attended the ceremony to reopen the Park four days later, looked around at the throng and told reporters: "We need each other."

The weeping started at the top, with the President of the United States, whose eyes moistened as Muhammad Ali triumphantly lit the Olympic cauldron at the climax of the opening ceremony. Whatever else these Games were — and not even the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio

Samaranch, could bring himself to pretend in his closing speech that they were the best of all time — they could certainly claim new records in emotional incontinence. This was America. This was not just about winning or losing, but about getting in touch with your inner self as you did so. And then showing that inner self to the world, or at least your fellow Americans, via the cameras of the NBC network, single-minded in its desire to keep its viewers switched on by "feminising" the Games through pursuing the human-interest stories behind the American successes. By the end, the cameras were expecting tears. Once or twice you could see athletes straining to provide them. Those few who failed to cry seemed to be missing the point of the whole thing.

All of this outpouring was a gargantuan manifestation of America's obsession with reconciliation and closure. "This is going to be a catalyst for the world uniting together," said Jordan Pflizer, 37, of Atlanta, one of 250,000 ordinary folk who reclaimed the park on Wednesday. You couldn't blame him. He was only repeating what Samaranch and Billy Payne were telling him.

If we are somehow convinced that "Olympism" has the power to broker truces between centuries-old enemies, if we are persuaded into an unquestioning admiration of the gift of a few hundred thousand dollars from a Swiss bank account to rebuild a football stadium in Sarajevo, then we can be made to overlook what is really going on: the indulgence of human vanity on a truly Olympian scale. Atlanta's emotional incontinence was matched only by its commercial incontinence. When they caught sight of the hectic bazaar of pin-traders and T-shirt hawkers surrounding the Centennial Olympic Park, the more staid

members of the IOC threw up their hands in horror. This, said Dick Pound, the Canadian IOC member responsible for marketing the Games, must never happen again. Future bidders will be forced to promise not to allow such unsightly scenes to blight the pristine visage of the Olympics.

What hypocrisy. Things were far more repellent inside the compound, where the IOC's Olympic "partners", to use the ghastly gaelic terminology of this business, had set out their stalls. Here was the true Olympic spirit, and the motive behind it all. The real sport at the Games of the 26th Olympiad was not running or jumping or throwing, but shopping. The athletes were there not merely to compete but to pitch on behalf of their sponsors.

It would be naive to pretend that this has not been so for most of the century, certainly since the 1920s, when the American soft-drinks manufacturer Robert C Woodruff and the German shoemaker Adi Dassler separately perceived the potential benefits of associating their products with the world of sport. Coca-Cola and Adidas are still there today.

But it took Billy Payne's people to make the connection so blatantly that we could not avoid it. Baron de Coubertin's original blueprint for the Games featured a Cultural Olympiad, and Atlanta did its best to comply. An exhibition at the beautiful High Museum of Art brought together 120-odd masterpieces from all over the place — Rodin's *The Kiss* and a Neolithic figurine from Romania, a Georgia O'Keeffe flower and a 2,000-year-old sun-mask from Ecuador — to reflect the variousness of human nature.

There was music, much of it illuminating the richness of Southern vernacular culture. Al Green, Bob Dylan and

Jerry Lee Lewis appeared at an old Baptist church converted into a restaurant called the House of Blues, the latest of a new chain of restaurants created by the inventor of the Hard Rock Cafes, who has now found a way of franchising the music of freed slaves. There it was again, the spirit of these Games. Freedom through victory, or possibly vice versa. Everybody was in on the act. Over the entrance of the L Ron Hubbard Foundation offices on West Peachtree hung a banner: "Dianetics welcomes the world. Free the winner in you!"

Stop carping, Billy Payne told reporters who criticised the dreadful organisation and lawdy ambience of his Games. Just look out there. Look at all these people having a good time. By night, the streets below Payne's offices turned into a cross between New Orleans at Mardi Gras time and the Munich beer festival. In the beer tent opposite the House of Blues, mooning became a new demonstration sport. At day-break the action moved to the intersection of Peachtree Street and International Boulevard. Touts and buskers jostled with trinket-sellers and a family of Jesus people from Oregon.

Yet in the stadiums the crowds were marvellous. Almost 80,000 turned up for the first morning of the athletics. That night another 80,000 turned up. Patient with the queuing and the portable lavatories, enthusiastic about everything they saw, they kept on coming to a stadium that looked what it was: a temporary facility designed to be retrofitted as a ballpark. America's willingness to tear down and build afresh is one of its most admirable characteristics. But a great stadium carries within it all those great deeds, all those evanescent emotions. It bears witness to reality. Those tears seep into its stones.

Anne outsails prince

Bob Fisher at Cowes

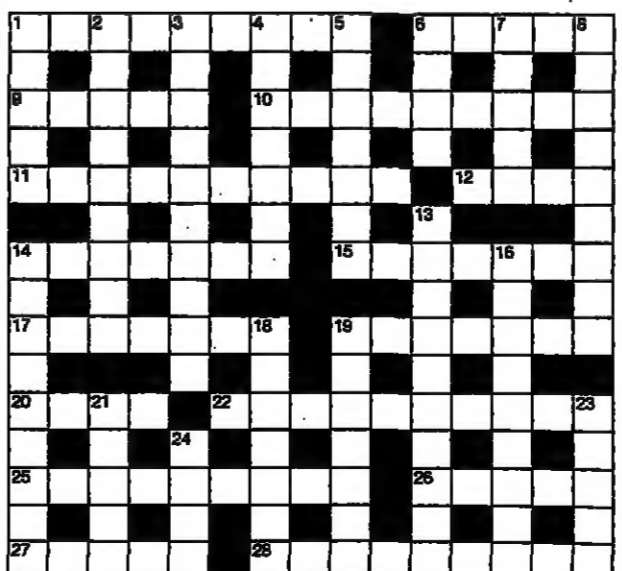
PRINCE PHILIP was shown up by another of his children yesterday, but for once he could smile about it afterwards. The Prince, with Yeoman XXVIII, finished fourth in the

first race of the Sigma 38 series here yesterday but was beaten by the Princess Royal. Donald and Sally Kennedy's Arbitration, with Princess Anne and her husband Lieutenant Commander Tim Laurence on board, finished second, 45 seconds ahead of David Aisher's pale-green

Yeoman. The competitors in the 854 yachts at Cowes Week enjoyed a magnificent day's racing in 12 to 16 knots of wind and bright sunshine, in marked contrast to Saturday, when the breeze was almost absent and only four classes completed their races.

Guardian Crossword No 20,723

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- 1 A police officer will show a number over the horses' accommodation (9)
 - 6 A model's vexed question (5)
 - 9 The person exhibiting a laundry aid (5)
 - 10 Cracking journalist (9)
 - 11 Given aid, created trouble and got out (10)
 - 12 Cllobber to get together (4)
 - 14 Cash organisation in one's later years (7)
 - 15 Transport for duck requiring no stuffing (7)
 - 17 Gun turned on a rebel leader as ordered (7)
 - 19 Made to agree without reservation (7)
 - 20 Dispossess some impecunious tenants (4)
 - 22 Unfortunate drivers at rig (3-7)

- Down**
- 1 About to assess the value of the box (5)
 - 2 Telling Iran grant has been negotiated (5)
 - 3 The board accepts injured miner may be finished (10)
 - 4 Assault responsible for much ill-feeling among lawyers? (7)
 - 5 No longer 10, that's clear (7)
 - 7 A girl will get a hardback (5)
 - 8 Demonstration of scorn for fruit (9)



This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Brian Drummond of Carryduff, Belfast, Liam O'Shane of Prestwich, Manchester, Elizabeth Craig of Blyth, Northumberland, Mr R. Harvie of Carlisle Junction, Lanark, and John Curtis of Southville, Bristol.

- 13 A businessman's swindle over agricultural machinery (10)
 - 14 Panel showing caution about contact (9)
 - 16 Allowance to cut without hesitation (9)
 - 18 Treadle replacement being connected (7)
 - 19 The examiners are upset and almost curt (7)
 - 21 A bit of fish for the table (5)
 - 23 Gave everybody a hand (5)
 - 24 It's not very exciting but it's home (4)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 25 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0991 333 222. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 40p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATB

سكنا من الالح

Inside